



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S SERBIAN SERVICE

March 14, 2018

WHEREAS, the Voice of America (VOA) began broadcasting in Serbo-Croatian on March 26, 1943, to provide accurate, balanced and comprehensive news and information to the peoples of the former Yugoslavia;

WHEREAS, VOA's Yugoslav Service served for decades as a vital communications link to the Balkans and promoted freedom and democracy during a turbulent period in the region;

WHEREAS, after the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, VOA's Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian and Slovene Services were established;

WHEREAS, VOA Serbian was the first VOA language service to begin with regular television programming on December 11, 1996;

WHEREAS, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of VOA Serbian's Open Studio television newscast, in December 2006, then-Senator Joseph Biden entered a statement of congratulations into the Congressional Record, praising the Voice of America's valuable role in Serbia's evolution and in providing an important source of information during the darkest periods of Serb history, adding that the "events in Serbia during the last decade provide compelling evidence of how courageous journalism can serve as a catalyst for democratic change;"

WHEREAS, VOA's Serbian Service expanded its programming with the aim of countering growing Russian propaganda and penetration by Russia and Russia-sponsored media into Serbian and Montenegrin media space over the last five years, and reported extensively on Montenegro's bid to join NATO, which was completed successfully in 2017;

WHEREAS, VOA Serbian remains a respected source of objective and accurate information on the Balkan region, the United States and the world, with a major focus on democratic consolidation and ethnic reconciliation;

WHEREAS, VOA Serbian continues to broadcast to more than 10 million Serbs in Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia, as well as to Serbian and other South Slavic diasporas world-wide, as Serbian is also understood by speakers of other South Slavic languages; and

WHEREAS, VOA Serbian is the leading international broadcaster in the target area, surpassing its competitors with its audience reach on multiple platforms – television, Internet, social media and mobile.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we celebrate and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Voice of America's Serbian Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors and CEO commend and congratulate both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Serbian Service for their dedication in serving the peoples of Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and other countries of the former Yugoslavia, and fostering friendship and the open communication of information and ideas between them and the United States.

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