S. Res. 88

Dear:

Thank you for your interest in Senate Resolution 88 in reference to Eastern Orthodoxy as one of the major faiths in America. During the past one-half century, especially the last 10 years, the Orthodox Church has made tremendous gains in the religious life of America and has also made substantial gains in its recognition.

I would like to point out that since 1955 Eastern Orthodox bishops and clergy have given invocations in the United States Senate and in the House of Representatives. That same year, the Secretary of Defense, under the Eisenhower Administration, granted Eastern Orthodoxy the use of Eastern Orthodox identifications in the Armed Forces. This privilege is also extended in the Veterans Administration. Eastern Orthodox chaplains have been designated in the three services since the year 1950. In 1957, President Eisenhower, for the first time, invited an Eastern Orthodox Archbishop to join the ministers of the other three major faiths, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish, in giving an inaugural prayer. In 1961, President Kennedy followed the example. So you can rightfully be proud of the recognition that Eastern Orthodoxy has received in the last 10 years.

I am sure that the Members of Congress will give serious consideration to S. R. 88 and will take all of the abovementioned factors into consideration.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen