

swift passage of H.R. 2248. This bill is identical to the bill that I introduced along with Senator SARBANES as original cosponsor. Both bills authorize the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, leader of the Orthodox Christian Church.

It is fitting that we recognize the tremendous leadership this religious figure provides to nearly 300 million people worldwide during his upcoming visit to our country.

While many consider countries such as Russia and Greece to be Orthodox Christian strongholds, the fact is that nearly 5 million United States citizens of Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, and Serbian descent are Orthodox Christians. The contributions of these Americans to our rich history and culture exemplify the values, ideals, and dreams of this great Nation.

The Patriarch Bartholomew has followed a calling in his life—to selflessly serve not only people of Greek origin, but millions of believers from all over the world, through his strong faith.

Patriarch Bartholomew was enthroned as the 270th spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christians in 1991. This new title came with enormous responsibilities and burdens. But, the Patriarch Bartholomew was prepared to meet the task. Not only has he fulfilled the demanding role as preeminent leader of Orthodox Christians, he has dedicated himself and used his station to promote worthy, noble causes.

Mr. President, in the name of religious unity and cooperation, Patriarch Bartholomew is working to promote interfaith dialog between the Orthodox Church, and the Roman Catholic Church, leading Protestant denominations, Muslim leaders, and various other faiths.

He has also sought to strengthen the bonds between Judaism and Orthodox Christianity. In 1994, the Patriarch worked side by side with Rabbi David Schneier and the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to cosponsor the Peace and Tolerance Conference, bringing together Christians, Jews, and Muslims for human and religious freedom.

And Patriarch Bartholomew's compassion is far-reaching. In the war-torn countries of the Balkans, he has helped to advance reconciliation among Catholic, Muslim, and Orthodox communities.

As a citizen of Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew is deeply concerned about the need to sustain the cause of peace. He has been a dynamic leader in efforts to ease Greek-Turkish tensions and to promote international cooperation, adherence to international law, and respect for human rights of victims of aggression.

Mr. President, Patriarch Bartholomew, also referred to as the "Green Patriarch" has a sincere commitment to the environmental legacy we will one day leave to our children. Together with global leaders, he convened an international environmental

symposium emphasizing the health and well-being of the world's oceans. The Patriarch is also a cosponsor of an annual conference addressing the protection of our global environment.

Mr. President, in October of this year, Patriarch Bartholomew will visit the United States to offer his spiritual message of unity, compassion, and brotherhood. It is my belief that Congress should honor the work of this great leader in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious freedom, tolerance, world peace, environmental protection, and human rights.

In closing, Mr. President, I call upon my colleagues to support bestowing the Congressional Gold Medal upon a visionary for our times, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. I would also like to take the opportunity to extend thanks to my 48 colleagues in the Senate who have lent their bipartisan support to this effort.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator D'AMATO, chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, in urging immediate passage of H.R. 2248.

Patriarch Bartholomew will be visiting the United States from October 19 through November 17, 1997. This bill awards the Congressional Gold Medal to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of approximately 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. The occasion of this legislation is to recognize Patriarch Bartholomew's outstanding contributions to world peace and understanding during his tenure as head of this ancient branch of Christianity and to honor Patriarch Bartholomew's first visit to the United States as Patriarch. As a Greek-Orthodox American and member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, I am particularly gratified to join in this tribute.

During his American visit Patriarch Bartholomew will meet with thousands of Orthodox faithful and will take the opportunity to convey his message of reconciliation to Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs. His All Holiness has been a leader in ecumenical understanding and has convened important meetings which have brought together participants of all religious backgrounds. In 1994, in cooperation with Rabbi David Schneier and the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, he cosponsored a Peace and Tolerance Conference in Istanbul where Christians, Jews, and Muslims joined together to discuss important and pressing issues.

As spiritual head of world Orthodoxy, Patriarch Bartholomew has been a leader in the quest for peace throughout the world, particularly in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East. He has vigorously spoken out against extremists and those who would use violence to achieve their ends and has counseled respect for all peoples, irrespective of their nationality and religion; his ministry has been a call to our best virtues.

From his historical seat in Istanbul, Turkey, Patriarch Bartholomew has served as a mediator between East and West, Christians and Muslims, and as a force for openness and tolerance in the newly emerging independent countries of Eastern Europe.

As he pursues the goal of peace, Patriarch Bartholomew is equally vigorous in his desire to preserve and promote the Earth's environment as a reflection of God's creation. Working with the European Commission, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and his Royal Highness Prince Philip, he has cosponsored significant international conferences on the environment, including one scheduled for this month on the future ecological health of the Black Sea.

I believe it is most fitting that the visit and the accomplishments of Patriarch Bartholomew should be recognized and honored by this Gold Medal as it will reflect the appreciation of the American people for his ministry of peace and reconciliation.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2248) was passed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE MEMORIAL BUILDING

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2443, which was reported by the Environment and Public Works Committee today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2443) to designate the Federal building located at 601 Fourth Street, N.W., in the District of Columbia, as the "Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office Memorial Building", in honor of William H. Christian, Jr., Martha Dixon Martinez, Michael J. Miller, Anthony Palmisano, and Edwin R. Woodruffe.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2443) was considered read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in