

House Resolution 1012

By: Representative Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 3, 2018, as Hungary Day at the state capitol and expressing  
2 appreciation for economic, cultural, security, and educational cooperation with Hungary; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, there is a bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and Hungary, and  
5 the people of Georgia welcome opportunities to further develop our already deep relationship  
6 at all levels; and

7 WHEREAS, this past month, January 6, 2018, marked the 40th anniversary of the United  
8 States' return to Hungary of the Crown of St. Stephens, and as such, it symbolizes a day of  
9 Hungarian freedom and sovereignty; and

10 WHEREAS, during the final days of World War II, the Crown of St. Stephens was spirited  
11 out of Hungary to prevent it from falling into the hands of the approaching Soviet army.  
12 Cold War tensions, especially the violently suppressed Hungarian revolution of 1956,  
13 prevented the return of the Crown to the communist government of Hungary. American  
14 authorities designated it "property of special status held in trust and safekeeping" and  
15 deposited it in the United States Gold Depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter determined that the time was right to return  
17 the Crown to Hungary. The ceremony for the Crown's return was held on January 6, 1978,  
18 in the rotunda of the Hungarian Parliament, with the United States delegation led by  
19 Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. As hoped, the Crown's return was both an occasion for  
20 improving relations between the United States and Hungary and a device for pulling Hungary  
21 towards the west. It allowed the traditional warm relations between the two countries to  
22 resurface. An exact replica of the Crown is on display in the Carter Center Presidential  
23 Library in Atlanta; and

24 WHEREAS, today, Hungary as well as most nations of the former Soviet Bloc, particularly  
25 the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, enjoy a democratic way of life, are faithful allies  
26 of the United States, and are proud members of NATO and the European Union; and

27 WHEREAS, the recognition of Hungary Day at the state capitol will cement the already  
28 close and friendly connections between the State of Georgia and Hungary and further  
29 promote business, cultural, educational, security, and scientific ties between our state and  
30 Hungary.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body recognize February 3, 2018, as Hungary Day at the state capitol  
33 and express appreciation to His Excellency, Ambassador Dr. László Szabó, for his efforts to  
34 promote peace and to grow economic, cultural, security, educational, and scientific ties  
35 between our two nations.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to His  
38 Excellency, Ambassador Dr. László Szabó.