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SENATE COMMENDS MARYLAND'S CHARLES COUNTY ON ITS 350th ANNIVERSARY

Washington, DC – U.S. Senators **Benjamin L. Cardin** and **Barbara A. Mikulski** (Both D-MD) praised the Senate for unanimously passing a resolution that recognizes Charles County, Maryland, on the occasion of its 350th anniversary.

“Nestled on the banks of the Potomac River, Charles County has been an active participant in American history since the earliest colonial days and the Articles of Confederation, through the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln’s assassin, to modern developments in defense and naval warfare. I am proud to recognize this gateway to Southern Maryland that has been thriving since 1658,” said **Senator Cardin**.

“From its rich American History to its booming and vibrant economy, Charles County continues to give back to and preserve American Culture. The county has been home to some of the nation’s most notable historical figures and continues to pave the way for the future through modern technological developments along the Potomac River,” said **Senator Mikulski**. “Every citizen in Charles County has a lot to be proud of today, and I am even prouder to recognize each and every one of them for 350 wonderful years.”

The full text of the Senate Resolution follows:

Resolution

Congratulating Charles County, Maryland, on the occasion of its 350th anniversary.

Whereas 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the establishment of Charles County, Maryland, an historic and memorable event that will be commemorated throughout the year;

Whereas Charles County was chartered in 1658 and named after Charles Calvert, a royal proprietor of the Colony of Maryland;

Whereas citizens of Charles County have played an important role in the history of Maryland and our Nation, including Thomas Stone, whose home is maintained by the National Park Service in Port Tobacco and who served as a Continental Congressman, a framer of the Articles of Confederation and a signer of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, under the Articles of Confederation, John Hanson, born in Port Tobacco, served as the President of the United States in Congress Assembled;

Whereas Josiah Henson escaped slavery and fled from Charles County to Canada, where he wrote his autobiography, a narrative that later became Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin";

Whereas Josiah Henson's grandnephew, Matthew Henson, left Charles County farmland to become an arctic explorer, venturing to the North Pole and going on to receive international acclaim;

Whereas, following the Civil War, the house of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd in Waldorf was where John Wilkes Booth stopped to have Dr. Mudd reset his leg, broken after he fatally shot President Abraham Lincoln and jumped off the balcony of Ford's Theater in Washington, DC;

Whereas today Charles County has roughly 120,000 residents;

Whereas, while farming and small town life still flourishes, particularly along the banks of the Potomac River, the population of the county is growing;

Whereas the county is home to workers in the National Capitol Region as well as the county's largest employer, a Department of Defense Energetics Center, Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate –

- (a) commends and congratulates Charles County, Maryland, on the occasion of its 350th anniversary; and
- (b) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Charles County Anniversary Committee as an expression of the Senate's best wishes for a glorious year of celebration.

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