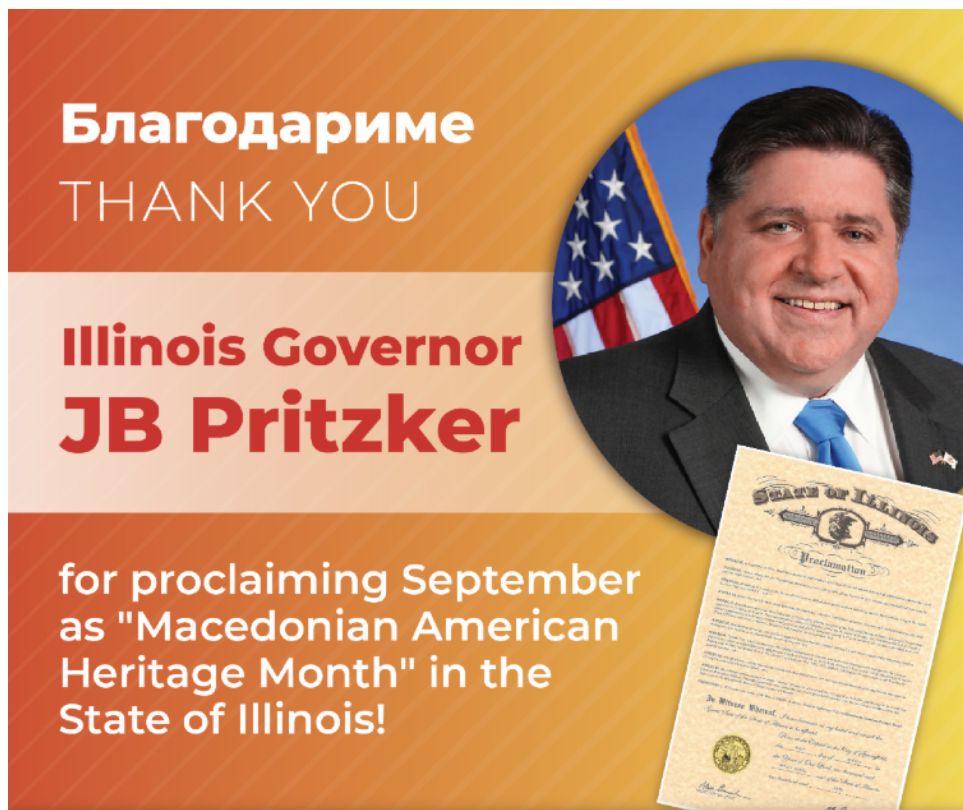




UNITED MACEDONIAN DIASPORA
ОБЕДИНЕТА МАКЕДОНСКА ДИЈАСПОРА

Illinois Governor Pritzker Proclaims September as Macedonian American Heritage Month + NYC Mayor/Wall Street Flag Raising, Chicago Mayor, and Reynoldsburg, Ohio Mayor Proclamations



UNITED
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UNITED, WE CAN!

The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) expresses its deepest gratitude to Illinois Governor JB Pritzker for proclaiming September 2023 as Macedonian American Heritage Month, as well as to Mayors of Chicago, New York City, and Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

On September 16, 2023, UMD organized its annual Macedonian Flag Raising Ceremony at Wall Street, NYC.

All the Macedonian press covered the news about these proclamations. Please see the full proclamations and photos below.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in September of 1991, Macedonia gained its independence from Yugoslavia and became a sovereign parliamentary democracy; and,

WHEREAS, when a referendum for Macedonian independence was held in 1991, about 76 percent of its citizens participated and more than 96 percent voted in favor; and,

WHEREAS, Macedonia is a young state, but an old civilization, with archeological evidence indicating ancient Macedonians living in the region between 7000 and 3500 B.C.; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has been home to many Macedonian-Americans, who have contributed culturally, economically, and philanthropically; and,

WHEREAS, Macedonian-American Mike Zafirovski of Forest Hills, Illinois, recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and former Presidential appointee to the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee, served on the board of Boeing, was President and CEO of Nortel, a global communications technology company and president and COO of Motorola - during a 25-year career at GE, served as president and CEO of five GE businesses in the consumer, industrial, and financial services arenas; and,

WHEREAS, Macedonian-American Dino Delevski founded and coached the Chicago Inferno, a youth soccer organization that prides itself on making positive impacts on its players both on and off the pitch; and,

WHEREAS, Tommy Ivan, whose parents were Macedonian immigrants in Canada, was both a coach and general manager for the Chicago Blackhawks, where he helped discover young prospects such as Gordie Howe, hired Rudy Pilous as a head coach, led the Blackhawks to win the Stanley Cup in 1961, and guided them to the Stanley Cup Finals in 1962, 1965, 1971, and 1973 during his 25-year tenure as the Blackhawks general manager; and,

WHEREAS, countless hard-working Macedonian immigrants have helped carry the American entrepreneurial spirit and become engrained in Chicago's cultural and historical fabric; and,

WHEREAS, Macedonian-Americans such as James "Jimmy" Stefanovic, who started Jim's Original in 1939 after purchasing his aunt's hot dog stand on Maxwell & Halsted, Tomislav Lazarevski, who owned and operated Express Grill together with his son Aco and brothers Jakov and Zlate Lazarevski, helped make Maxwell Street a staple of Chicago;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as **Macedonian-American Heritage Month**.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this FIRST day of AUGUST, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexis Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation


Whereas, As a city built by immigrants, New York's cross-cultural ethnic mosaic is the source of our singularity and strength, providing us with infinite reasons to celebrate our fellow New Yorkers, many of whom hail from every corner of the globe and speak more than 800 languages. We are the proud home of a thriving population of Macedonian New Yorkers, and today, I am pleased to join members of that dynamic community for flag-raising event to commemorate the Republic of Macedonia's 32nd independence anniversary.

Whereas, Located in the Balkan Peninsula and bordered by Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, and Kosovo, this country stands as a pillar of natural wonders, including Lake Ohrid and its two beautiful mountain ranges, the Rhodope Mountains and the Sar Mountains. In 1991, the Republic of Macedonia officially declared its independence and ushered in a new era of freedom, self-determination, and civic pride that continues to inspire the country and its people to this day. The nation is acclaimed for its distinctive traditions, including wonderful wood carvings, beautiful and vibrant outfits, folk music and dance, and more. Here in New York, our Macedonian sisters and brothers promote their rich heritage and make a positive difference.

Whereas, Macedonian Americans have long strengthened the five boroughs, and they will continue to play a key role as we take bold steps to move our global city forward. At today's ceremony in Lower Manhattan, Macedonian New Yorkers will commemorate their homeland's independence by raising its colorful flag. This event also provides an opportunity to recognize the indelible imprint they have made in our city and beyond. Together, we will continue to #GetStuffDone and forge a brighter, more inclusive, and prosperous future for all.

Now therefore, I, Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 16th, 2023, in the City of New York as:

Macedonian Heritage Day



Eric Adams

Eric Adams
Mayor



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, since its establishment, the City of Chicago has always been home to vibrant communities of diverse people hailing from all over the world boasting distinct cultural heritages; and

WHEREAS, Chicago is home to a proud and vibrant Macedonian American community that has bolstered the city in the realms of art and music, business and finance, law and government, education and social service, and science and medicine; and

WHEREAS, in September of 1991, the Republic of North Macedonia gained its independence from Yugoslavia and became a sovereign parliamentary democracy; and

WHEREAS, when a referendum for Macedonian independence was held in 1991, about 76% of its citizens participated and more than 96% voted in favor; and

WHEREAS, the Macedonian American community will mark the 32nd anniversary of the Republic of North Macedonia's Independence during the month of September and will be celebrated throughout the city:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim September to be MACEDONIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN CHICAGO and encourage all residents to join in celebrating the many contributions of Macedonian Americans.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Johnson".

Mayor

Office of the Mayor Proclamation

WHEREAS, Macedonian-Americans have a rich traditional background in art, architecture, poetry, music, and dance; and

WHEREAS, Macedonian-Americans have been making valuable contributions to many aspects of life including business, law, medicine, education, technology, government, military service, sports, and culture; and

WHEREAS, many Macedonians are distinguished leaders and public servants who add richness to the diversity of our culture and exhibit pride in their rich legacy; and

WHEREAS, the Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral Dormition of the Virgin Mary has been a foundation to the Macedonian community in Reynoldsburg since 2006 and has had a notable presence in the Columbus, Ohio area since the beginning of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, today the Macedonian-American community are celebrating Macedonian Independence Day, an important holiday that celebrates when the Republic of Macedonia gained its independence and became an independent sovereign parliamentary democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Begeny, Mayor of the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as:

MACEDONIAN HERITAGE MONTH

In the City of Reynoldsburg, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Macedonian Heritage Month and to support their efforts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Great City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, to be hereto affixed on September 8, 2023.



Joe Begeny
Joe Begeny, Mayor
City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio



In July 2023, the only Senator member of the Congressional Macedonian Caucus, Senator Mike Braun of Indiana, introduced [**S. Res. 311**](#) to designate Macedonian American Heritage Month celebrating Macedonian language, history, culture, and contributions to the United States. The resolution is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee