

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 164

*Commending the Very Reverend Constantine Nicholas Dombalis.*

Agreed to by the Senate, February 3, 2000  
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 11, 2000

WHEREAS, the Very Reverend Constantine Nicholas Dombalis, Dean Emeritus of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Richmond, was chosen to receive the 2000 First Freedom Award, on the occasion of the 214th anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; and

WHEREAS, throughout his 40-year tenure with the church, Richmond's Greek Orthodox community has flourished, and the legendary Greek Festival has grown from a weekend celebration of Greek culture to the largest festival of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Father Dombalis helped author the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" as a delegate to the 38th session of the United Nations in 1983 and was later appointed to the White House Conference for Religious Leaders; and

WHEREAS, Father Dombolis has demonstrated his commitment to religious freedom through his service as a member of the Council for America's First Freedom Board of Trustees, the Governor's appointee to the Virginia Middle East Commission, the United States Commissioner to UNESCO, and as a presidential appointee to both the United States Civil Rights Commission and the United States Holocaust Memorial Council; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 Father Dombalis founded the Richmond International Airport Interfaith Chapel, the first chapel of its kind to be opened in the United States, where more than a dozen faiths are represented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Very Reverend Constantine Nicholas Dombalis for his continuing efforts to uphold the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and congratulate him for his selection as a recipient of the 2000 First Freedom Award; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Very Reverend Constantine Nicholas Dombalis as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for his work on behalf of religious freedom for all Americans.

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