



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S NORTH CAUCASUS SERVICE

June 14, 2017

WHEREAS, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) North Caucasus Service was created by an Act of Congress in late 2000, was launched on April 3, 2002 and is celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2017;

WHEREAS, the North Caucasus Service resumed, after a 25-year hiatus, RFE/RL's decades-long tradition of providing news and information that is consistently accurate, impartial, and respectful of the human rights of all persons in this war-torn region;

WHEREAS, the North Caucasus Service broadcast radio programming in the Avar, Chechen, Circassian, and Russian languages into the North Caucasus region until June 2016, and continues to produce digital content in the Chechen and Russian languages for distribution via the Radio Marsho and Kavkaz.Realii websites and on social media platforms;

WHEREAS, the North Caucasus Service is the only international media organization to provide objective news and analysis to its audiences in one of the most violent and dangerous regions in the world;

WHEREAS, the North Caucasus Service—in spite of a decade of accreditation denials by Russian authorities—was one of the few outlets with a journalist reporting live on the 2004 Beslan hostage tragedy from beginning to end;

WHEREAS, a 2004 investigation by the North Caucasus Service about Russian detainees at Guantanamo Bay in 2004 resulted in the first-ever comprehensive list of those detainees;

WHEREAS, following the May 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, the North Caucasus Service was the first media to interview the mother, father, and uncle of bombers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, and North Caucasus Service reporting on the Tsarnaev family was widely quoted in international media;

WHEREAS, in early 2015, as a step toward preserving Chechnya's literary heritage, the North Caucasus Service launched an online library available for free to users with both text and audio versions of classics selected from Chechen poetry and prose, as well as works from contemporary authors;

WHEREAS, the North Caucasus Service monitors and reports on the participation of Chechens in armed conflicts in the Middle East, both on the side of armed rebel groups and as Russian servicemen; and

WHEREAS, the informed reporting of the North Caucasus Service remains crucial for the well-being of the peoples of the region, and dramatically relevant to the interests of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) that we celebrate and commemorate the 15th anniversary of RFE/RL's North Caucasus Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and CEO applaud and thank current and former members of the North Caucasus Service team for their dedication to professional journalism.