

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 156

Commending the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. on securing the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales of Huntsville, Texas, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez of Los Angeles, California, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone of Smiths Creek, Michigan, from captivity in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

---

## RESOLUTION

Commending the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. on securing the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales of Huntsville, Texas, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez of Los Angeles, California, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone of Smiths Creek, Michigan, from captivity in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Whereas, on March 31, 1999, Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone were captured while on patrol along the border of Kosovo and Macedonia;

Whereas all diplomatic efforts to secure their release were unsuccessful;

Whereas Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., on April 29, 1999, led a delegation of religious and civic leaders from the United States, including Representative Rod R. Blagojevich, in a faith-based effort to secure the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone;

Whereas against great odds and in the face of grave personal risks, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. and his party entered a war zone and successfully secured the release of Specialist Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone;

Whereas Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has successfully secured the release of prisoners in other countries on several previous occasions—in 1984 he secured the release of United States Navy flyer, Lieutenant Robert O. Goodman, Jr. from Syria, in June 1984, he secured the release of 22 United States citizens and 26 Cubans from Cuba, and in 1990 he secured the release of 700 women and children who were being detained in Iraq;

Whereas Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is recognized around the world as a humanitarian, an advocate for civil and human rights, and an ambassador of freedom; and

Whereas, as a highly respected world leader, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. has acted many times as an international diplomat in sensitive situations and in October 1997, he was appointed by President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1           (1) commends Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.  
2           for securing the release of Specialist Steven  
3           Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff  
4           Sergeant Christopher Stone from captivity in Bel-  
5           grade, Yugoslavia;

6           (2) expresses its gratitude to Rev. Jesse L.  
7           Jackson, Sr. and his delegation for securing the re-  
8           lease and safe return of Specialist Steven Gonzales,  
9           Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Staff Sergeant  
10          Christopher Stone; and

11          (3) joins with the people of the United States  
12          in celebrating the return to freedom of Specialist  
13          Steven Gonzales, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez,  
14          and Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone.

○