

U.S. SENATOR  
GEORGE VOINOVICH



U.S. SENATOR  
MIKE DEWINE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, November 24, 2003

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**VOINOVICH, DEWINE PRAISE SENATE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION CELEBRATING  
AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY  
350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of American Jewish History in North America**

WASHINGTON – Today U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich (R-OH) and U.S. Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) praised the Senate’s unanimous passage Friday of a resolution commemorating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Jewish history in North America and highlighting Ohio’s role in preserving that history.

“The Jewish community has made immeasurable contributions to the state of Ohio and our nation. I’m glad that today the Senate took the step to recognize these contributions and reinforce the value to our nation of preserving this important heritage for future generations to appreciate and celebrate,” Voinovich said.

“There is a rich history behind the Jewish culture here in the United States-- one that has been a large part of this country and has helped us become the nation we are today,” said DeWine. “We must always remember the unique contributions of the Jewish community, so I am pleased to see this resolution passed in the Senate.”

The legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 106 passed the House of Representatives on October 15. Similar legislation was introduced by Senators Voinovich and DeWine earlier this year, which recognizes the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Jewish history in North America by supporting the designation of September in 2004 as ‘American Jewish History Month.’ In 2004, Jewish communities in the United States will celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Jewish existence in North America.

The resolution was introduced at the request of the American Jewish Archives on the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College. It was created just after World War II and functions as a semi-autonomous organization which collects, preserves, and makes available for research materials on the history of Jews and Jewish communities in the Western Hemisphere, primarily in the United States. It is one of two national Jewish archives in the country.

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108th CONGRESS  
1st Session  
**H. CON. RES. 106**  
**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Recognizing and honoring America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350th anniversary, supporting the designation of an `American Jewish History Month', and for other purposes.

Whereas in 1654, Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived on North American shores and formally established North America's first Jewish community in New Amsterdam, now New York City;

Whereas America welcomed Jews among the millions of immigrants that streamed through our Nation's history;

Whereas the waves of Jewish immigrants arriving in America helped shape our Nation;

Whereas the American Jewish community has been intimately involved in our Nation's civic, social, economic, and cultural life;

Whereas the American Jewish community has sought to actualize the broad principles of liberty and justice that are enshrined in the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the American Jewish community is an equal participant in the religious life of our Nation;

Whereas American Jews have fought valiantly for the United States in every one of our Nation's military struggles, from the American Revolution to Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas not less than 16 American Jews have received the Medal of Honor;

Whereas 2004 marks the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community;

Whereas the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the American Jewish Historical Society, and the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives have formed `The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History' (referred to in this resolution as the `Commission') to mark this historic milestone;

Whereas the Commission will use the combined resources of its participants to promote the celebration of the Jewish experience in the United States throughout 2004; and

Whereas the Commission is designating September 2004 as `American Jewish History Month': Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress--*

(1) honors and recognizes--

(A) the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community; and

(B) `The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History' and its efforts to plan, coordinate, and execute commemorative events celebrating 350 years of American Jewish history;

(2) supports the designation of an `American Jewish History Month'; and

(3) urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role the American Jewish community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.

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