

Congressional Record

Proceedings and Debates of the 119th Congress, Second Session

WASHINGTON, D.C.

House of Representatives

Recognizing Falun Dafa Month and the Contributions of Falun Dafa Practitioners

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OF VIRGINIA

MR. WALKINSHAW: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Falun Dafa Month and to acknowledge the contributions of Falun Dafa practitioners in communities across Virginia and throughout the United States.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the introduction of Falun Dafa to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Also known as Falun Gong, Falun Dafa is a spiritual practice rooted in meditation, exercise, and principles centered on truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. Since being introduced in Virginia, practitioners have shared the practice through free workshops, cultural events, and community engagement efforts across the region.

In Northern Virginia, Falun Dafa practitioners have participated in local festivals, parades, and cultural celebrations that help strengthen community connections and promote greater cultural understanding. Their outreach and volunteer efforts have

become a familiar part of many community events throughout our region.

This recognition also serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of religious freedom and the right of individuals to practice their beliefs peacefully and openly. Many Falun Dafa practitioners came to the United States after facing religious persecution abroad and continue to advocate for greater awareness of human rights issues around the world.

I would also like to recognize the many practitioners and volunteers whose continued involvement in our communities reflects a strong commitment to civic participation and cultural engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Falun Dafa Month and in celebrating the contributions Falun Dafa practitioners continue to make to communities across Virginia and our nation.