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Statement

By

The Honorable George Radanovich

Before

The House of Representatives

March 21, 2004

Recognizing the Assyrian New Year 6754

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my warm wishes to the Assyrian community; Kha B’Nissan. The Bet-Nahrain, an Assyrian organization in Ceres, California, will be honoring this day on March 21st through their numerous broadcasts which are viewed worldwide through satellite and internet.

The celebration of the Assyrian New Year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Assyria about 4,000 years ago. In the years surrounding 2000 B.C., the Assyrian New Year began with the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox, which is the first day of spring, March 21st. According to Assyrian belief, the beginning of spring is the logical time to start the New Year because it is the season of rebirth, planting of new crops, and blossoming of trees and flowers. The Assyrian New Year typically lasts for 12 days, with each day having a particular theme for celebration.

The Assyrian population has made countless contributions to our community, and the Bet-Nahrain is an organization that attests and attributes to that fact. Bet-Nahrain is an Assyrian educational and cultural organization dedicated to the national aspirations and well being of the Assyrian people. In December of 1975, it was incorporated under the state laws of California as a non-profit education and public benefit organization. Bet-Nahrain established and inaugurated the world’s first ever Assyrian radio station, KBES 89.5 FM in 1979, and KBSV TV 23 the world’s first Assyrian Television Broadcasting Station, in Ceres in 1996. Their intent is to use their technology to reach millions of people, Assyrian and non-Assyrian, with their message and information.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my best to the Bet-Nahrain and the Assyrian community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Assyrian community many years of continued success.