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## NEWS

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For Immediate Release  
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CONGRESSWOMAN BENTLEY TO BE GUEST  
OF SERBIAN PATRIARCH GERMAN  
FOR THE 600th ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BATTLE OF KOSOVO

U.S. Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley announced today that she has accepted the invitation of His Holiness Patriarch German, the Prelate of the Serbian Orthodox Church, to be his special guest at the commemorations for the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo.

The Congresswoman will leave for Serbia, one of the six Republics that comprises the nation of Yugoslavia, on Friday afternoon, the 23rd of June. The commemorations will be held in the Church of Saint Sava on Vracar on June 25, and in the Monastery of Grachaniza and Gazi Mestan on the actual date of the commemoration of the Battle of Kosovo, June 28, Saint Vitus Day.

The Battle of Kosovo occurred on June 28, 1389, with the result that invading Turkish forces completed their conquest of the Balkan lands, an occupation that was to last for centuries. During those centuries of Turkish occupation, the Turks attempted to stifle and destroy the Serbian Christian heritage and culture. It was the famous Battle of Kosovo that all Serbians remembered during those dark days as they struggled to keep their language, religion and heritage intact.

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Mrs. Bentley, whose parents emigrated to the United States from Serbia, decided to accept Patriarch German's invitation because of the present political crisis facing ethnic Serbians in Yugoslavia. "Hopefully, by my going into the crisis-stricken Kosovo region, I will be able to get a firsthand look at the actual situation that faces the Serbian people there," said Mrs. Bentley. Earlier this year Mrs. Bentley was named to the Executive Board of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Mrs. Bentley will be accompanied on her trip by her husband, Mr. William R. Bentley. The trip is being taken as a personal one by the Bentleys, and is not being taken at government expense.

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