

**The original documents are located in Box 36, folder “12/23/75 HR10555 Relief of Mrika Mrnacaja” of the White House Records Office: Legislation Case Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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APPROVED  
DEC 23 1975

ACTION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
December 22, 1975

Last Day: December 31

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: JIM CANNON  
SUBJECT: H.R. 10555 - Relief of Mrika Mrnacaj

Attached for your consideration is H.R. 10555, sponsored by Representative Biaggi, which would make a special grant of eligibility for naturalization as a United States citizen to the beneficiary, an 111 year old native and citizen of Albania. The enrolled bill would waive the time consuming requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act for naturalization of permanent resident aliens.

Additional information is provided in OMB's enrolled bill at Tab A.

OMB, Max Friedersdorf, Counsel's Office (Lazarus) and I recommend approval of the enrolled bill.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign H.R. 10555 at Tab B.







EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 22 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill H.R. 10555 - Relief of Mrika Mrnacaj  
Sponsor - Rep. Biaggi (D) New York

Last Day for Action

As soon as possible

Purpose

To make a special grant of eligibility for naturalization as a United States citizen to an aged permanent resident alien.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Department of State

Approval  
Defer to Justice (INS)

Discussion

The enrolled bill declares that the beneficiary has satisfied the naturalization requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to understanding of the English language, history, principles and form of government of the United States, as well as periods of residence and physical presence within the United States. Mrs. Mrnacaj is, therefore, eligible for naturalization as a United States citizen.

Mrs. Mrika Mrnacaj is an 111 year old native and citizen of Albania, who was admitted to the United States on September 10, 1974 and was granted permanent residence status on November 3, 1975. She presently resides with her son, a naturalized United



States citizen, in New York City. Because Mrs. Mrnacaj's life expectancy is short and in recognition of her desire to vote in a national election prior to her death, the enrolled bill waives, in her behalf, the time consuming requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act for naturalization of permanent resident aliens.

*James M. Frey*  
Assistant Director  
for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

12/30/75

Mr. Linder:

Per telephone call to Nancy Kennedy,  
Mr. Friedersdorf's office, today --

She is 90% certain that the President did not make  
a telephone call to Mrs. Mrika Mrnacaj.

Katie

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

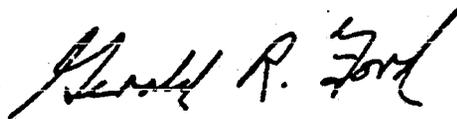
December 31, 1975

Dear Mrs. Mrnacaj:

Mrs. Ford and I want to join your family and friends in sending our warmest wishes to you on becoming a citizen of the United States. This is a happy time, and we are delighted to share in the joy of this very special occasion.

Congratulations and our warm good wishes always.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mrika Mrnacaj  
2796 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10458



*Orig. signed letter was given to M. Friederodorf (Nancy Kennedy) on 12/31/75 for delivery to Cong. Scaggs who will present it to Mrs. Mrnacaj.*

*signed 12/24/75*

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION

WASHINGTON

December 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

Attached for your consideration is a proposed letter to Mrs. Mrika Mrnacaj, the 111-year old beneficiary of H.R. 10555, which you signed on December 23.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 19, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF ✓

THRU:

VERN LOEN VL

FROM:

CHARLES LEPPERT, JR. CLJ

SUBJECT:

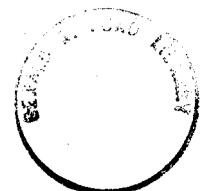
H. R. 10555 - Private Bill  
Relief for Mrika Mrnacaj

Our office received a call from Peter Ilchuk of Rep. Mario Biaggi's office (D-N. Y. ), urging that the President sign Private Bill H. R. 10555 as soon as possible. The bill was passed by the House on December 16th and by the Senate on December 17th but has not reached the White House as yet.

This bill is an immigration matter; the woman is 111 years old and wants to become an American Citizen before she dies. We advised Mr. Ilchuk that we would pass the word on to the proper staff in order that quick action might be considered.

Subsequent to dictating this memorandum, Mr. Biaggi called Vern Loen personally to request that the President initiate a telephone call to Mrs. Mrnacaj as soon as the bill is signed. She is an Albanian who has lived in several countries in order to flee communism. This phone call also is recommended by Rep. Jack Wydler, a close friend of Biaggi. Mr. Biaggi has supported us on a number of key issues this year, including three override attempts.

If you think the phone call is worth pursuing, I will be glad to obtain further details and prepare a recommended telephone proposal.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
Washington 25, D.C.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

DEC 19 1975

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.  
A20 810 395

TO : OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

SUBJECT: Enrolled Private Bill No. H. R. 10555; Office of Management  
and Budget request dated December 18, 1975

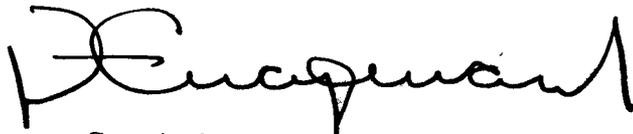
Beneficiary or Beneficiaries Mrika Mrnacaj

Pursuant to your request for the views of the Department of Justice on the subject bill, a review has been made of the facsimile of the bill, the relating Congressional Committee report or reports, and all pertinent information in the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

On the basis of this review the Immigration and Naturalization Service, on behalf of the Department of Justice:

- Recommends approval of the bill.
- Interposes no objection to approval of the bill

Sincerely,



Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

**19 DEC 1975**

Honorable James T. Lynn  
Director, Office of  
Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Lynn:

Reference is made to Mr. Frey's communication of December 18, 1975, transmitting for comment enrolled bill H.R. 10555, "For the relief of Mrika Mrnacaj".

Since the matter included in the above-cited bill lies exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General, the Department would defer to the views expressed by the Attorney General regarding the enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

*Robert J. McCloskey*

Robert J. McCloskey  
Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional Relations



# Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fourteenth day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-five*

## An Act

For the relief of Mrika Mrnacaj.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Mrika Mrnacaj shall be held and considered to have satisfied the requirements of sections 312 and 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act relating to requirements as to understanding the English language, history, principles, and form of government of the United States and requirements as to periods of residence and physical presence within the United States, and, notwithstanding the provisions of section 310(d) of that Act, she may be naturalized at any time after the date of the enactment of this Act if she is otherwise eligible for naturalization under the Immigration and Nationality Act.*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate.*