

HR 9129

2005

House Resolution

A resolution honoring the life and example of Pope John Paul II.

WHEREAS, born of a military father in Wadwice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, and orphaned by age 20, Karol Josef Wojtyla was ordained a Catholic priest at the age of 26 after having served as a professor of moral theology, social ethics, and philosophy, reflecting ideals evidenced in his life not only by his elevation to the office of Bishop of Kracow and Cardinal but also by his active resistance from a young age to Nazi occupation, and

WHEREAS, Karol Josef Wojtyla, along with some friends, was stopped by the Gestapo during the 1940's Nazi occupation of Poland and he alone being in possession of a work visa was released, while his friends were arrested, deported to Auschwitz, and killed, an event that motivated him to join an underground seminary and dedicate his life to God, and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 1978, Karol Josef Wojtyla, having been elected as Supreme Pontiff by the Sacred College of Cardinals, chose to be called by the name "John Paul II," and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul's pilgrimage to his native Poland in 1979 sparked a revolution against Soviet style totalitarianism, empowered by conscience and morality, beginning with the Solidarity Labor movement and resulting in similar civil uprisings in Eastern Europe; this "soft power" revolution, speaking truth to the corruption of totalitarianism, combined with President Ronald Reagan's efforts to secure peace through

HR 9129

2005

29 strength, forged a partnership for human freedom culminating in
30 the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of Soviet
31 Communism in 1991; and early in this revolution, in 1981, Pope
32 John Paul survived an assassination attempt perpetrated by fear
33 of his persuasive moral leadership, and

34 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II, evangelist and pilgrim of
35 peace, the most traveled pope in history, declared evangelism
36 the essential mission of the church; globalized the Roman
37 Catholic Church and its message by visiting nearly 130 countries
38 and territories during his papacy, traveling over 700,000 miles,
39 the equivalent of 28 circumnavigations of the globe, including
40 seven trips to the United States, but with particular emphasis
41 on the developing nations in Africa, South America, and Asia;
42 addressed over 17 million people directly in his general
43 audiences, from the slum dwellers of Rio de Janeiro to AIDS
44 sufferers in Uganda and the United States; and whether he was in
45 Muslim Morocco, Buddhist Japan, or Catholic Spain, he advanced
46 the message that the Gospel is not out of place in any country,
47 and

48 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II, for Roman Catholics the
49 successor to St. Peter, Christian theologian, poet, and Second
50 Vatican Council participant, authored 5 books, 14 papal
51 encyclicals, 15 apostolic exhortations, 11 apostolic
52 constitutions, and 45 apostolic letters instructing mankind on
53 issues ranging from capitalism to ecumenism, abortion to
54 euthanasia, private property rights to morality, and, most
55 significantly, the triumph of life over death, and through these

HR 9129

2005

56 | writings exhorted mankind to "be not afraid" to live Christ-like
57 | lives, and

58 | WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II, ecumenical leader and religious
59 | unifier, emphasized that which is common among world religions
60 | over that which is disputed; was the first Bishop of Rome to
61 | pray with Roman Jews in their synagogue since St. Peter and the
62 | first Pope to visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem; called anti-
63 | Semitism a sin against God and was known to have cried at Yad
64 | Vashem, the Holocaust memorial; was the first Pope since the
65 | Reformation to visit the Canterbury Cathedral and with the
66 | Reverend Billy Graham held the great ecumenical rally of 1987,
67 | bringing together evangelicals, Protestants, Orthodox, and
68 | Anglicans to give common witness to the Gospel; was the first
69 | Pope to visit a mosque and quote the Qur'an and encouraged
70 | Christians to fast with Muslims during Ramadan after the horror
71 | of September 11, 2001; coordinated interfaith condemnations of
72 | terrorism; and constantly advanced the understanding of the
73 | Church as a means of communion with all people of God, and

74 | WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II, instrumental in the defeat of
75 | Nazism and Communism, two of the most pernicious and godless
76 | evils of modern time, was adviser and spiritual example to world
77 | leaders, holding over 730 audiences with heads of state and
78 | almost 250 audiences with prime ministers, and was a strong
79 | force in ending the nuclear arms race, and

80 | WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II, Vicar of Christ, mystic, and
81 | pastor to over 1.1 billion Roman Catholics and a powerful
82 | exemplar of a consecrated life to people of all faiths
83 | worldwide, was known as the pope of the people, or "don de

HR 9129

2005

84 gente," for his love of all life, especially children and the
85 suffering, and for his example of strict morality and gentle
86 mercy; who, as an assassination attempt survivor, within three
87 days publicly forgave and ministered to his would-be assassin,
88 promoting hope and mercy for the condemned; and who, through his
89 daily example, epitomized a life guided by I Corinthians 11:1,
90 "Imitate me as I imitate Christ," NOW, THEREFORE,

91

92 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
93 Florida:

94

95 That Pope John Paul II be remembered for his exemplary life
96 of daily courage as a common man who adored his God, who through
97 and for Him dedicated his life and soul to the love, compassion,
98 mercy, and service of others, and who in so doing changed the
99 world forever.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives,
101 on behalf of all Floridians, commend his noble soul to the
102 merciful love of God our Heavenly Father and invoke upon all who
103 mourn his passing the divine blessings of consolation, strength,
104 and peace and further commend to all Floridians the
105 encouragement of "truth and faith" uttered as the last word by
106 Pope John Paul II, "Amen."