

By: Anchía

H.R. No. 945

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, People the world over are mourning the loss of Pope
2 Francis, who passed away on April 21, 2025, at the age of 88,
3 shortly after offering his Easter Sunday blessing to the faithful
4 gathered in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Square; and

5 WHEREAS, Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires,
6 Argentina, on December 17, 1936, Pope Francis was the son of Mario
7 and Regina Bergoglio, and he was deeply influenced by his
8 grandmother, Rosa Bergoglio, who had been active in the Catholic
9 Action movement in Italy before the family emigrated to Argentina;
10 at age 12, he entered a school run by Salesian priests, who
11 instilled in him a sense of duty to the poor, and he accepted his
12 calling at the age of 16; he was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1969;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Pope Francis was appointed to lead the Jesuit order
15 in Argentina in 1973; during the "Dirty War" that took place during
16 the rule of the country's repressive military junta, he quietly
17 worked to save the lives of many people; he went on to serve in
18 Germany and then in the Argentine city of Córdoba; in 1992, he was
19 named auxiliary bishop of the Buenos Aires diocese, and six years
20 later, he became archbishop; during his time in that role, he helped
21 relieve the suffering caused by Argentina's economic crisis,
22 organizing food kitchens, tripling the number of priests assigned
23 to the slums, and building schools and drug rehabilitation centers;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Named a cardinal in 2001, he became a leading voice
2 in the church; by the time Pope Benedict XVI stepped down in 2013,
3 Pope Francis was preparing for retirement; instead, he was elected
4 pope, becoming the first Jesuit and the first member of the church
5 from Latin America to serve as pontiff; he was also the first to
6 choose the name Francis, and like St. Francis of Assisi, he
7 embraced a humble life of service to the most vulnerable;
8 demonstrating good humor and an avuncular charm that belied his
9 steely determination, he became a global voice for justice and
10 compassion; he took more than 40 trips abroad, many to places long
11 overlooked, in order to meet with his flock and build interfaith
12 bridges; at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, he offered hope and
13 consolation via regular video livestreams; he involved Catholics
14 worldwide in a process of renewal, engaging the laity, welcoming a
15 variety of opinions, and choosing many cardinals from Latin
16 America, Asia, and Africa; even as he grew frail and battled ill
17 health, he continued to travel widely, especially striving to bring
18 peace to war-torn regions; and

19 WHEREAS, Now, with the death of this beloved pope, Cardinal
20 Kevin Farrell of the United States has become acting head of the
21 Vatican until a new pontiff is elected; born in Ireland, Cardinal
22 Farrell is a naturalized U.S. citizen and spent many years
23 ministering in the U.S., particularly as the Bishop of Dallas; he
24 now holds the position of camerlengo, temporarily overseeing the
25 day-to-day administration of the Vatican and making arrangements
26 for the upcoming conclave in the Sistine Chapel to elect the next
27 pope; and

1 WHEREAS, Another adopted Texan, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, who
2 was previously the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of
3 Galveston-Houston and was recently succeeded by Archbishop Joe S.
4 Vásquez, will vote in the upcoming conclave for the election of the
5 new pontiff; and

6 WHEREAS, Pope Francis was a transformative figure, and he
7 will remain a tremendous source of inspiration, not only to his
8 fellow Catholics, but to countless people who have been heartened
9 by his message of enduring mercy and love; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Pope Francis and
12 extend deepest condolences to all who mourn his passing.