

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 463

In Memory
of
Pope Francis

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bettencourt

Alvarado	Hall	Middleton
Birdwell	Hancock	Miles
Blanco	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	Nichols
Campbell	Hinojosa of Nueces	Parker
Cook	Huffman	Paxton
Creighton	Hughes	Perry
Eckhardt	Johnson	Schwertner
Flores	King	Sparks
Gutierrez	Kolkhorst	West
Hagenbuch	Menéndez	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 30, 2025, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate