

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 75

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, an
2 epochal event in the history of the Cold War, is being commemorated
3 in 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, On October 23, 1956, hundreds of thousands of
5 Hungarians from all walks of life joined university students in a
6 peaceful call for democracy and an end to the brutal and oppressive
7 Soviet-dominated Hungarian communist government; and

8 WHEREAS, The Hungarian Security Police fired on the
9 protestors, killing hundreds and triggering a bloody fight for
10 freedom and democracy and the first tear in the Iron Curtain; in the
11 wake of that first bloodshed, millions of Hungarians--students,
12 workers, men, women, and children--rose up against impossible odds
13 and risked their lives to take part in the noble fight; and

14 WHEREAS, The Hungarian Freedom Fighters were able to
15 establish a revolutionary government under Prime Minister Imre
16 Nagy, who released political prisoners, including major church
17 leaders, took steps to establish a multiparty democracy, called for
18 the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Hungary, announced
19 Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, and requested the
20 assistance of the United Nations in establishing Hungarian
21 neutrality; and

22 WHEREAS, In retaliation, the Soviet Union launched a massive
23 military counteroffensive on November 4, 1956, sending tens of
24 thousands of additional Soviet troops and unleashing air strikes,

1 artillery bombardments, and coordinated actions involving infantry
2 and some 6,000 tanks; notwithstanding the tremendous military
3 superiority enjoyed by the Soviets, the outnumbered and
4 underequipped Hungarian Army and Hungarian Freedom Fighters
5 succeeded in resisting for several days; and

6 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Nagy was seized by Soviet security
7 forces, despite assurances of safe passage, when he left the
8 Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest, where he had sought asylum; he was
9 taken to Romania, where he was subsequently tried and executed;
10 thousands of other Hungarians were also tortured, tried, and
11 executed by the post-1956 Hungarian government; and

12 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 Hungarians fled their country in
13 the aftermath of the uprising, and over 47,000 of them were
14 eventually able to settle in the United States, where they have
15 contributed greatly to the cultural diversity and economic strength
16 of their adopted home; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Hungarian Federation, founded in 1906,
18 played a key role in the resettlement of Hungarian refugees and in
19 illuminating the abuses of the post-1956 Hungarian government; the
20 members of the federation, many of whom are 1956 Freedom Fighters,
21 continue to work for the advancement of freedom and democracy; and

22 WHEREAS, The uprising of the Hungarian people in 1956
23 dramatically confirmed the widespread contempt in which the
24 Hungarians held the Soviet Union, while also demonstrating the
25 strength of popular support in Hungary for democratic principles
26 and the desire of Hungarian citizens to determine their own
27 destiny; and

1 WHEREAS, At the same time, the revolt pointed up the
2 underlying weakness of the communist system imposed by Soviet
3 authorities in Central and Eastern Europe; by unmasking the true
4 nature of that system, the Hungarian Revolution contributed to the
5 disintegration of communist parties in the West and across the
6 globe; and

7 WHEREAS, On October 23, 1989, the Republic of Hungary
8 proclaimed its independence, and in 1990 the Hungarian Parliament
9 officially designated October 23 as a Hungarian national holiday,
10 signaling that the legacy of the 1956 revolution continues to
11 inspire Hungarians to this day; and

12 WHEREAS, The Hungarian government, reflecting the will of the
13 Hungarian people, formally became a member of NATO on March 12,
14 1999, and on May 1, 2004, Hungary became a full member of the
15 European Union; and

16 WHEREAS, The Hungarian Revolution, though crushed within two
17 weeks, had long-term consequences, setting the stage for the
18 ultimate collapse of communism throughout Central and Eastern
19 Europe in 1989 and, two years later, in the Soviet Union itself;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
22 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor the people of Hungary
23 as they mark the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution; and,
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That this body recognize the Hungarian Freedom
26 Fighters for their bravery in the face of insurmountable odds, and
27 that it express appreciation to those refugees who brought their

1 talents, skills, and love of freedom to the United States and helped
2 to build a stronger America; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That this body express condolences, both to the
4 people of Hungary for the death of Prime Minister Imre Nagy and to
5 all Hungarians who lost loved ones, either to hostile action during
6 the revolution itself or to execution by Soviet and Hungarian
7 communist authorities during the five years that followed; and, be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That this body congratulate the American Hungarian
10 Federation on its 100th anniversary; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That this body recognize the friendship that exists
12 between the governments of Hungary and the United States and
13 between the Hungarian and American people.