

By: Price

H.R. No. 573

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Amarillo lost one of their most
2 esteemed community leaders with the death of Monsignor Joseph Tash
3 on May 21, 2012, at the age of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Edward and Anna Corey Tash on March 2, 1935,
5 in Barre, Vermont, Joseph Tash graduated from Spaulding High School
6 and attended St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont; he
7 obtained a degree in philosophy from St. John's Seminary in
8 Brighton, Massachusetts, and completed additional postgraduate
9 work in theology at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard
10 Lake, Michigan; he was ordained to the priesthood in 1962; and

11 WHEREAS, Father Tash traveled to Amarillo and served as an
12 assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church from 1962 to 1967; because of
13 his Lebanese heritage and familiarity with the unique traditions of
14 the Maronite Rite, he was called to assist the St. Louis Gonzaga
15 Maronite Catholic Church in Utica, New York, for a year but returned
16 to Amarillo in 1968; and

17 WHEREAS, On his return to the Amarillo diocese, Father Tash
18 was assigned to serve as chaplain, director of pastoral care, and
19 director of mission and ministry at St. Anthony's Hospital; in
20 1980, he became responsible for the hospital's planning and
21 development; over the course of his 25-year tenure with
22 St. Anthony's, he co-chaired the medical ethics committee, served
23 on the administrative council, and acted as director of community
24 relations; he was also instrumental in both the fund-raising

1 efforts for the St. Anthony's Foundation and the establishment of
2 St. Anthony's Hospice; and

3 WHEREAS, During that same period, Father Tash was involved in
4 the establishment of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and
5 served as its founding pastor when it opened in 1982; he was named a
6 Prelate of Honor to His Holiness by Pope John Paul II in 1986 and
7 thereafter served his congregation as Monsignor Tash; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to his service at the church and
9 hospital, Monsignor Tash was involved in numerous charitable
10 organizations and local causes; enthusiastic about preaching
11 against the societal dangers of drug use, he helped organize
12 Operation Drug Alert and organized Kairos House for rehabilitation;
13 he served two terms as the campaign chair of the United Way of
14 Amarillo & Canyon and was a chair of the March of Dimes; he also
15 served on the boards of the Ronald McDonald House, Catholic Family
16 Service, the Downtown Women's Center, the Amarillo Kidney
17 Foundation, the Amarillo Heart Association, and the Amarillo
18 Symphony; and

19 WHEREAS, Monsignor Tash enjoyed such pastimes as golf,
20 bowling, cooking, and needlepoint; he taught his mother's Lebanese
21 recipes in a class at Amarillo College, and his Christmas
22 needlework was well known around the parish; and

23 WHEREAS, A man of generosity, energy, and great faith,
24 Monsignor Joseph Tash made a positive difference in the lives of
25 many, and his work will be remembered and admired for years to come;
26 now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

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1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Monsignor Joseph Tash
2 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
3 brothers, Nathan Tash and Francis Tash and his wife, Irene; to his
4 sister, Barbara Tash Callahan; to his nephews, Michael Callahan,
5 Patrick Callahan and his wife, Joyce, Edward Tash, and Francis
6 "Buddy" Tash; to his nieces, Emily Callahan, Donna Tash, and Susan
7 Tash; and to his friends and congregants; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Monsignor
11 Joseph Tash.