

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 624

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives joins people  
2 around the world in honoring the service of His Holiness Pope  
3 Benedict XVI, who will retire from the papacy on February 28, 2013,  
4 after eight years leading the Roman Catholic Church; and

5 WHEREAS, The spiritual leader of the world's 1.2 billion  
6 Roman Catholics, Pope Benedict XVI is celebrated for his defense of  
7 Christian values and for his emphasis on the inviolability of human  
8 life from conception to natural death; and

9 WHEREAS, An advocate for social justice, he interceded on  
10 behalf of migrants and refugees worldwide, speaking for those whose  
11 voices would not have otherwise been heard, and he has called for an  
12 equitable distribution of world resources and for environmental  
13 protections to ensure human health; and

14 WHEREAS, A proponent of religious freedom, tolerance, and  
15 cooperation, Pope Benedict deepened ties during his tenure with  
16 many religions, including Judaism and Islam; within his own Church,  
17 he expanded the use of the traditional Latin mass and eased rules  
18 regarding the conversion of Anglicans to Catholicism; and

19 WHEREAS, Born Joseph Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in Marktl  
20 am Inn, Germany, he was ordained a priest in 1951 and was a  
21 professor of theology at numerous European universities; he served  
22 as the archbishop of Munich and Freising, and he was made a cardinal  
23 in 1977 by Pope Paul VI; he also served as the prefect of the  
24 Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and as the vice dean of

1 the College of Cardinals; in April 2005, he was elected to the  
2 papacy at the age of 78, the oldest cardinal to become pope in 275  
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Known as an academic, scholar, and teacher, Pope  
5 Benedict is a prolific writer, having authored 66 books over the  
6 course of his life; he has also penned numerous articles,  
7 established a journal devoted to theology, and overseen the  
8 preparation of the new Catechism of the Catholic Church; he is noted  
9 for writings that promote traditional Christian values in the face  
10 of the declining moral principles of the modern world; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the service of His Holiness Pope  
14 Benedict XVI; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives  
16 adjourns this day, it do so in honor of Pope Benedict XVI.