

By: Price

H.R. No. 1661

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first female
2 prime minister and one of the most commanding figures of the 20th
3 century, died on April 8, 2013, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of a grocer, Margaret Thatcher was
5 first elected to Parliament in 1959, becoming the youngest of only
6 25 women in the House of Commons; she surprised many by winning
7 leadership of the Conservative Party in 1975, and by the following
8 year, she had already earned the nickname the Iron Lady from the
9 Soviet press for her hard-line position on Russia; she went on to
10 guide the Tories to a landslide victory in the general election in
11 1979; and

12 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Thatcher led the United Kingdom for
13 11 years, the longest tenure of any English prime minister since the
14 early 1800s; transforming a country beset by economic woes and
15 mired in discontent, she restored a sense of optimism by lowering
16 taxes, slashing spending, crushing once-powerful labor unions, and
17 selling off unprofitable state-owned businesses, including Jaguar
18 and British Airways; and

19 WHEREAS, This bold leader captured the world's attention and
20 restored national pride by sending troops to defend the Falkland
21 Islands against an Argentine invasion in 1982; even detractors
22 admired her courage, especially when she gave her keynote speech at
23 the 1984 Tory convention mere hours after an assassination attempt
24 had claimed the lives of colleagues; and

1 WHEREAS, Uniting with President Ronald Reagan and Pope John
2 Paul II, Prime Minister Thatcher worked tirelessly to defeat Soviet
3 communism, end the Cold War, and bring freedom to the people of the
4 Eastern Bloc; the prime minister and President Reagan maintained a
5 strong friendship based on a shared worldview, and among foreign
6 heads of state, she was his staunchest ally; in 1986, she allowed
7 United States warplanes to fly from British bases to bomb Libya in
8 retaliation for acts of terrorism, and she sent ships, tanks, and
9 troops to Iraq for the first Gulf War; and

10 WHEREAS, After leaving 10 Downing Street in 1990, Prime
11 Minister Thatcher continued to advocate for her vision of "popular
12 capitalism" as a highly sought-after speaker on the lecture
13 circuit; two years later, she took her seat in the House of Lords as
14 Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven, wrote her memoir, and dedicated
15 herself to the Margaret Thatcher Foundation, a think tank that
16 seeks to advance political and economic freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, Margaret Hilda Roberts was born on October 13, 1925,
18 the youngest of two daughters of Beatrice and Alfred Roberts; she
19 was raised in the central England town of Grantham in a modest home
20 above the grocery shop, which her father ran in addition to serving
21 as a Methodist preacher and local politician; the budding leader
22 began developing her consummate political skill as a child
23 assisting in her father's campaigns for office; she attended
24 Somerville College at Oxford University, where she earned a
25 master's degree in chemistry, and she worked briefly as a research
26 chemist before qualifying as a barrister; and

27 WHEREAS, In 1951, Prime Minister Thatcher married

1 businessman Denis Thatcher, who was her rock of support until his
2 passing in 2003; she was the mother of twins, Mark and Carol, and
3 the grandmother of Amanda and Michael Thatcher; and

4 WHEREAS, Margaret Thatcher profoundly changed British
5 society and altered the course of world history, and her
6 far-reaching accomplishments will continue to resonate with
7 current and future generations around the globe; now, therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Baroness Margaret
11 Thatcher and extend deepest sympathy to the members of her family
12 and to all who mourn her passing; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Baroness
16 Margaret Thatcher.