86R2015 JGH-F

By:  Oliverson H.R. No. 24

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, In 2017, President Donald Trump designated November 7 as a national day of remembrance for the victims of communism; and

WHEREAS, The date commemorates the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917, when the first communist regime, led by Vladimir Lenin, initiated decades of oppression and violence around the world; despite promises of equality and liberation, communist dictators such as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Pol Pot, Nicolae Ceausescu, Fidel and Raúl Castro, and the Kim dynasty of North Korea have murdered vast numbers of people in genocidal purges, persecuted others for speaking out, and suppressed freedom of thought, cultural life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations; and

WHEREAS, Based on the theories of Karl Marx, this political ideology has been responsible for the deaths of more than 100 million people, and it has subjected countless others to some of the worst human rights abuses in history; as the bipartisan U.S. Congressional Caucus for the Victims of Communism has stated, "Marx's defenders often say he cannot be held accountable for what communist regimes did long after his life and death, but Marxist dictators who massacred their own people were applying communist ideology to political practice"; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has established the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit organization tasked with the dual purpose of educating Americans about the history and legacy of communism and honoring those who have suffered and died under it; and

WHEREAS, For more than a century, communist regimes have deprived their own citizens of the freedoms of religion, speech, and association, and their official policies of coercion, brutality, and fear have proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and the dignity of human life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize November 7, 2019, as Victims of Communism Memorial Day and commend all those associated with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation for their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the foundation as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.