88R8787 TBO-F

By:  Oliverson, Metcalf, Plesa, Garcia H.C.R. No. 26

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Throughout history, countless lives have been lost to oppressive communist regimes; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, November 7 was designated as a national day of remembrance for the victims of communism; 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, Under Chapter 443, Government Code, and rules of the State Preservation Board, a portion of the north Capitol grounds is available for new monuments, subject to legislative approval, specified procedural requirements, the provision of funding from private donors, conformity to certain size and design limitations and parameters, and completion on a timely basis; and

WHEREAS, A memorial on the Capitol grounds would provide a communal place for Texans to honor the legacies of those who lost their lives to communism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby authorize the State Preservation Board, subject to state law and rules of the board, to approve the construction of a monument honoring victims of communism at the State Capitol Complex, at a site outside of the historic Capitol grounds; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the State Preservation Board.