

By: Bettencourt, et al.

S.R. No. 463

#### R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, People the world over are mourning the loss of Pope  
2 Francis, who passed away on April 21, 2025, at the age of 88,  
3 shortly after offering his Easter Sunday blessing to the faithful  
4 gathered in the Vatican's Saint Peter's Square; and

5 WHEREAS, Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires,  
6 Argentina, on December 17, 1936, Pope Francis was the son of Mario  
7 and Regina Bergoglio, and he was deeply influenced by his  
8 grandmother, Rosa Bergoglio, who had been active in the Catholic  
9 Action movement in Italy before the family emigrated to Argentina;  
10 at age 12, he entered a school run by Salesian priests, who  
11 instilled in him a sense of duty to the poor, and he accepted his  
12 calling at the age of 16; he was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1969;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Pope Francis was appointed to lead the Jesuit order  
15 in Argentina in 1973; during the "Dirty War" that took place during  
16 the rule of the country's repressive military junta, he quietly  
17 worked to save the lives of many people; he went on to serve in  
18 Germany and then in the Argentine city of Córdoba; in 1992, he was  
19 named auxiliary bishop of the Buenos Aires diocese, and six years  
20 later, he became archbishop; during his time in that role, he helped  
21 relieve the suffering caused by Argentina's economic crisis,  
22 organizing food kitchens, tripling the number of priests assigned  
23 to the slums, and building schools and drug rehabilitation centers;  
24 and

1           WHEREAS, Named a cardinal in 2001, he became a leading voice  
2 in the church; by the time Pope Benedict XVI stepped down in 2013,  
3 Pope Francis was preparing for retirement; instead, he was elected  
4 pope, becoming the first Jesuit and the first member of the church  
5 from Latin America to serve as pontiff; he was also the first to  
6 choose the name Francis, and like St. Francis of Assisi, he  
7 embraced a humble life of service to the most vulnerable;  
8 demonstrating good humor and an avuncular charm that belied his  
9 steely determination, he became a global voice for justice and  
10 compassion; he took more than 40 trips abroad, many to places long  
11 overlooked, in order to meet with his flock and build interfaith  
12 bridges; at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, he offered hope and  
13 consolation via regular video livestreams; he involved Catholics  
14 worldwide in a process of renewal, engaging the laity, welcoming a  
15 variety of opinions, and choosing many cardinals from Latin  
16 America, Asia, and Africa; even as he grew frail and battled ill  
17 health, he continued to travel widely, especially striving to bring  
18 peace to war-torn regions; and

19           WHEREAS, Pope Francis was a transformative figure, and he  
20 will remain a tremendous source of inspiration, not only to his  
21 fellow Catholics, but to countless people who have been heartened  
22 by his message of enduring mercy and love; now, therefore, be it

23           RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature  
24 hereby pay tribute to the life of Pope Francis and extend deepest  
25 condolences to all who mourn his passing.