

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 481 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY MCGEEHAN, ADOLPH, BELFANTI, BOBACK, BOYLE, BRENNAN, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GODSHALL, HARHAI, HESS, KILLION, KORTZ, LEVDANSKY, MARKOSEK, McCALL, MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, PHILLIPS, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, STEVENSON, SWANGER, VULAKOVICH AND KULA, OCTOBER 2, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 2, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's visit
2 to the City of Philadelphia on October 3 and 4, 1979.

3 WHEREAS, Ordained as a priest in 1946, Karol Jozef Wojtyla of
4 Poland spent years devoted to his scholarly duties, earning a
5 master's degree and two doctoral degrees in theology and
6 philosophy; and

7 WHEREAS, With such a significant reputation, Karol Jozef
8 Wojtyla was elevated to the position of archbishop at the age of
9 38; and

10 WHEREAS, Archbishop Wojtyla was later elected pope on October
11 21, 1978, taking the name Pope John Paul II in reference to his
12 predecessors; and

13 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II became the first Slavic pope and
14 the first non-Italian to occupy the papacy in 455 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Within a year after his election, the 264th pontiff

1 became the first pope to travel extensively throughout the
2 United States and the first to visit the City of Philadelphia;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II visited more than 120 countries
5 and delivered more than 2,000 public addresses during the span
6 of his pontificate, making him the most traveled pope in
7 history; and

8 WHEREAS, Before an estimated crowd of more than one million,
9 Pope John Paul II celebrated a public mass in Philadelphia's
10 Logan Square on October 3, 1979; and

11 WHEREAS, The Benjamin Franklin Parkway was a sea of people
12 who gathered to be touched by the spirit of His Holiness; and

13 WHEREAS, For those brief two days of Pope John Paul II's
14 visit, an overwhelming sense of goodwill and optimism pervaded
15 the entire Philadelphia region; and

16 WHEREAS, Undeniably one of the most significant figures of
17 our time, Pope John Paul II preached nonviolence in overcoming
18 oppressive regimes and lent his great moral voice and tireless
19 efforts to freeing the world of injustice; and

20 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II was fluent in ten languages and
21 possessed a unique passion and ability to bridge political and
22 religious divides across the globe; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
24 30th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's awe-inspiring visit to
25 the City of Philadelphia on October 3 and 4, 1979.