

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 322 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY STACK, STOUT, FARNESE, WARD, ARGALL, ALLOWAY,
GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, FONTANA, RAFFERTY AND ORIE,
APRIL 21, 2010

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 21, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing sympathy for the people of Poland in the aftermath of
2 the devastating plane crash that killed the country's
3 President, First Lady and 94 other high-ranking government,
4 military and civic leaders on April 10, 2010.

5 WHEREAS, The United States and Poland share a bond of
6 history, friendship and international cooperation; and

7 WHEREAS, Polish immigrants were among the first Jamestown
8 settlers and Polish Generals, Casimir Pulaski and Thaddeus
9 Kosciuszko, fought for America's Independence in the
10 Revolutionary War; and

11 WHEREAS, Millions of Americans of Polish descent now reside
12 in the United States, and more than two million reside in this
13 Commonwealth, bringing vitality and history to this
14 Commonwealth, from the traditional Polish neighborhoods of
15 Philadelphia, to the northeast coal region, to the western steel
16 towns; and

17 WHEREAS, Polish Americans have been leaders in all walks of
18 American life; and

1 WHEREAS, The American people stood in support of the
2 Solidarity movement as it fought against the oppression of the
3 Polish communist government through peaceful means, eventually
4 leading to Solidarity members being elected to office in open
5 democratic elections held on June 4, 1989, events that helped
6 spark the movement to democracy throughout eastern Europe; and

7 WHEREAS, Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
8 (NATO) in 1999, joined the European Union in 2004, and
9 contributed to United States and NATO operations in Iraq and
10 Afghanistan; and

11 WHEREAS, Poland has enjoyed a thriving and prosperous free
12 market democracy since the end of the Cold War; and

13 WHEREAS, The Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other
14 people, including Poland's First Lady, the deputy foreign
15 minister, dozens of members of Parliament, the chiefs of the
16 armed forces and the president of the national bank, were
17 tragically killed in a plane crash in western Russia on April
18 10, 2010; and

19 WHEREAS, President Kaczynski and his colleagues were
20 traveling to Katyn, Russia, for a memorial service to mark the
21 70th anniversary of the Soviet secret police killing of more
22 than 20,000 Polish officers, prisoners and intellectuals who
23 were captured after the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939; and

24 WHEREAS, Also killed in the crash were Anna Walentynowicz,
25 the former dock worker whose firing in 1980 sparked the
26 Solidarity strike that ultimately overthrew the Polish communist
27 government, and Ryszard Kaczorowski, who served as Poland's
28 final president in exile before the country's return to
29 democracy; and

30 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama said, the "loss is

1 devastating to Poland, to the United States, and to the world.
2 President Kaczynski was a distinguished statesman, who played a
3 key role in the Solidarity movement, and he was widely admired
4 in the United States as a leader dedicated to advancing freedom
5 and human dignity"; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania express its deepest
7 sympathies to the people of Poland and the families of those who
8 perished for their profound loss.