

## INTERIM RESOLUTION 2019-001

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3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE DAY OF  
4 NOVEMBER 7, 2019, AS "VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL DAY" IN  
5 ARKANSAS.  
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7 WHEREAS, the year 2017 marked 100 years since the Bolshevik Revolution  
8 in Russia resulting in the world's first communist regime under Vladimir  
9 Lenin, which led to decades of oppression and violence under communist  
10 regimes throughout the world; and  
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12 WHEREAS, based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, communism has proven  
13 incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and dignity of human  
14 life and has given rise to such infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph  
15 Stalin, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Pol Pot, Nicolae Ceaușescu, the Castro  
16 brothers, and the Kim dynasty; and  
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18 WHEREAS, President Donald Trump declared November 7, 2017, a National  
19 Day for the Victims of Communism, condemning communism as a political  
20 philosophy "incompatible with liberty, prosperity, and the dignity of human  
21 life"; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the bipartisan U.S. Congressional Caucus for the Victims of  
24 Communism stated publicly in 2018 that "Marx's defenders often say he cannot  
25 be held accountable for what communist regimes did long after his life and  
26 death, but Marxist dictators who massacred their own people were applying  
27 communist ideology to political practice"; and  
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29 WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than 100 million  
30 people and subjected countless others to the worst and widest-spread human  
31 rights abuses known to history, with victims representing many different  
32 ethnicities, creeds, and backgrounds; and  
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34 WHEREAS, through false promises of equality and liberation, communist  
35 regimes have as a matter of government policy robbed their own citizens of

1 the rights of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of  
2 association through coercion, brutality, and fear; and

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4 WHEREAS, many victims of communism were persecuted as political  
5 prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and others were killed in  
6 genocidal state-sponsored purges; and

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8 WHEREAS, in addition to violating basic human rights, communist regimes  
9 have suppressed freedom of conscience, cultural life, and self-determination  
10 movements in more than 40 nations; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington,  
13 D.C., is a nonprofit organization authorized by unanimous Act of the United  
14 States Congress that educates people about the ideology, history, and legacy  
15 of communism and honors the people who have suffered and died under communist  
16 regimes,

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18 NOW THEREFORE,  
19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-SECOND  
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 THAT the Legislative Council designates the day of November 7, 2019, as  
23 "Victims of Communism Memorial Day" in Arkansas.

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25 Respectfully submitted,

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29 Senator Jason Rapert  
30 District 35

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32 Prepared by: KLL/BAT  
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