

1 INTERIM RESOLUTION 2019-001

2
3 REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DESIGNATE THE DAY OF
4 NOVEMBER 7, 2019, AS "VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL DAY" IN
5 ARKANSAS.
6

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
11

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
17

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
22

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
28

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
33

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

3
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

7
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,

17
18 NOW THEREFORE,
19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-SECOND
20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21
22 THAT the Legislative Council designates the day of November 7, 2019, as
23 "Victims of Communism Memorial Day" in Arkansas.

24
25 Respectfully submitted,

26
27
28
29 Senator Jason Rapert
30 District 35

31
32 Prepared by: KLL/BAT
33
34
35
36