

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

SMR 5

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5 By: Senator Argue
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8 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II AND IN
10 RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
11 ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND HIS HISTORIC PAPACY.
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF POPE JOHN PAUL
15 II AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
17 CHURCH AND HIS HISTORIC PAPACY.
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20 WHEREAS, Karol Wojtyla, was born on May 18, 1920, in a small village
21 near Krakow, Poland; and
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23 WHEREAS, after the Nazi invasion of Poland, Mr. Wojtyla decided to
24 become a priest but had to study underground with a cardinal in Krakow,
25 Poland, because the Nazis closed all Polish seminaries, and Mr. Wojtyla
26 worked in a quarry by day; and
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28 WHEREAS, Mr. Wojtyla was ordained in 1946 at the age of twenty-six (26)
29 years, and left for Rome for advanced studies; and
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31 WHEREAS, Mr. Wojtyla was declared a cardinal in 1967 by the late Pope
32 Paul VI, and was promoted to archbishop of Krakow, Poland; and
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34 WHEREAS, Mr. Wojtyla became the pope in 1978 and chose the name Pope
35 John Paul II; Pope John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope in four
36 hundred fifty-five (455) years; was the 264th successor of St. Peter; and at



1 the age of fifty-eight (58) years, was the youngest pope in more than a
2 century; and

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4 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II survived an assassination attempt in May
5 1981 in St. Peter's Square, and subsequently forgave his would-be assassin;
6 and

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8 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II held the first-ever meeting between a
9 Kremlin chief and a pope at the Vatican in 1989; and, following the visit,
10 the pope stepped up the reestablishment of the Catholic Church throughout the
11 Eastern bloc, a move that paralleled the crumbling of communist regimes
12 across the region; and

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14 WHEREAS, during his papacy, Pope John Paul II traveled the equivalent
15 of thirty (30) times the circumference of the earth, making more than one
16 hundred (100) foreign trips, and spending more than three (3) years away from
17 the Vatican; and

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19 WHEREAS, despite declining health throughout the 1990s, Pope John Paul
20 II continued to maintain a rigorous travel schedule; and

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22 WHEREAS, in 1999, Pope John Paul II walked through the Holy Door of St.
23 Peter's Basilica in a symbolic ceremony to mark the start of the Roman
24 Catholic Church's third millennium; and

25
26 WHEREAS, in 2000, Pope John Paul II, in an unprecedented act of public
27 repentance, delivered the most sweeping papal apology ever, repenting for the
28 errors of the Roman Catholic Church over the previous two thousand (2,000)
29 years; and

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31 WHEREAS, the pope visited the Rome Synagogue in the first visit ever by
32 a pontiff to a Jewish house of worship; and

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34 WHEREAS, during Pope John Paul II's papacy, the Vatican and Israel
35 established full diplomatic ties, ending two thousand (2,000) years of
36 distrust and hostility; and

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2 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II visited Jerusalem in 2000, culminating one
3 of his lifetime ambitions; and

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5 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II was a tireless advocate for the poor and
6 jobless and a champion for world peace; and

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8 WHEREAS, during his twenty-six (26) years as pope, Pope John Paul II
9 nominated four hundred eighty-three (483) saints, held more than one thousand
10 one hundred (1,100) general audiences at the Vatican, issued fourteen (14)
11 encyclicals on moral, religious, and social issues, and traveled the world;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, ending the third
15 longest papacy in the Roman Catholic Church; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Eighty-fifth General Assembly wishes to
18 publicly recognize Pope John Paul II's many contributions to the Roman
19 Catholic Church and his historic papacy,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
23 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 THAT the Senate recognizes Pope John Paul II's commitment, hard work,
26 dedication, and years of service to the Roman Catholic Church and commends
27 him for his leadership.

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the Senate hereby
30 express sincere condolences to the members of the Roman Catholic Church, and
31 upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to
32 the Diocese of Little Rock by the Secretary of the Senate.