

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 16

By: Mazzei, Adelson, Aldridge,
Anderson, Barrington, Bass,
Branan, Brogdon, Cain,
Capps, Coates, Coffee,
Corn, Crain, Crutchfield,
Easley, Eason McIntyre,
Fisher, Ford, Garrison,
Gumm, Harrison, Hobson,
Johnson, Jolley, Justice,
Kerr, Lamb, Laster,
Laughlin, Lawler, Leftwich,
Lerblance, Monson, Morgan,
Myers, Nichols, Paddack,
Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds,
Riley, Shurden, Taylor,
Wilcoxson, Williamson,
Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution mourning the loss of Pope John Paul II;
offering condolences; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Karol J. Wojtyla was born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland, a small city near Krakow. The second of two sons born to Karol Wojtyla and Emilia Kaczorowska, he lost his mother, a school teacher, in 1929; his brother Edmund, a medical doctor, in 1932; and his father, a noncommissioned Army officer, in 1941; and

WHEREAS, Karol J. Wojtyla made his First Holy Communion at nine years of age and was confirmed at 18 years of age. Upon graduation from Marcin Wadowita High School, he enrolled in Krakow's Jagiellonian University in 1938. As a youth he was an accomplished athlete both as a soccer goalkeeper and a swimmer. He also loved the theater and studying literature; and

WHEREAS, Karol J. Wojtyla worked in a quarry from 1940 through 1944, then in the Solvay chemical factory after Nazi occupation closed the university in 1939. In 1942 he began courses in the clandestine seminary of Krakow and was one of the founders of the "Rhapsodic Theatre", also a clandestine organization. During this time he was active in the UNIA, a Christian democratic underground organization, and in this capacity he helped Jews find refuge from the Nazis; and

WHEREAS, Karol J. Wojtyla continued his studies after the Second World War and was ordained a priest on November 1, 1946. He was sent to Rome where he received his doctorate in theology in 1948 and returned to Krakow as vicar of several parishes, also serving as a chaplain for university students. Later he became Professor of

Moral Theology and Social Ethics in the seminary of Krakow and served on the Faculty of Theology of Lublin; and

WHEREAS, Karol J. Wojtyla was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow in 1958 and was nominated Archbishop of Krakow in 1964. During this period he was a visible leader, taking public stands against communism and the government. He became a Cardinal in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II was elected to succeed Pope John Paul I on October 16, 1978. He became the most traveled Pope in church history, visiting the United States in 1981. Pope John Paul II spoke eight languages, was the first non-Italian Pope in 456 years, and was the youngest selected in the last century. In 1981 an unsuccessful assassination attempt was made on his life and, although he received severe wounds, he recovered and forgave his potential assassin; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II completed 95 pastoral visits outside of Italy and 142 within Italy. He visited 301 of Rome's 334 parishes. He wrote 14 encyclicals, 13 apostolic exhortations, 11 apostolic constitutions and apostolic letters. He has also published three books. The Pope presided at 138 beatification ceremonies, proclaimed 1,310 to be "Blessed", canonized 469 saints in 48 ceremonies, and convened six plenary meetings of the College of Cardinals. He presided at 15 Synods of Bishops. More than 6.7 million pilgrims have participated in the General Audiences at the Vatican, and in his travels he met millions of the faithful and admirers while making 104 pilgrimages to 129 countries. He has had 38 official visits and 690 audiences and meetings with Heads of State and 226 audiences and meetings with Prime Ministers; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II has led the Roman Catholic Church for more than a quarter of a century, but the significance of his life cannot be summed up by mere numbers. He was the first pope in history to visit a synagogue and a mosque. Pope John Paul II apologized for the church's sins of the past and condemned the sexual scandals of the present. He had been a public crusader against communism in a country controlled by communists. The Pope remained true to his devotion to traditional doctrine, morals, and ethics despite vocal opposition within his own church, holding firm to the principles he believed made the Roman Catholic Church both holy and apostolic; and

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II died on Saturday, April 2, 2005, at 9:37 p.m. in the Vatican, a portrait of courage, humility, and tranquility, a man at peace with himself, his world, and his God.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate, on behalf of the people of the State of Oklahoma, joins the rest of the nation and the world in mourning the loss of Pope John Paul II, a religious leader who transcended denominational divisions to earn the respect and admiration of not only Roman Catholics and other Christians but the entire world, regardless of theological beliefs.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate, on behalf of the people of the State of Oklahoma, offers its most sincere and heartfelt condolences not only to Oklahoma's Roman Catholic population but to all people of good will throughout the state, the nation, and the world who have lost this good and true friend.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Most Reverend Edward J. Slattery, Bishop of Tulsa.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of April, 2005.

Presiding Officer of the Senate