

1 [Honoring the Legacy of Pope John Paul II]

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3 **Resolution honoring the legacy of Pope John Paul II and the profound impact he had**
4 **on all citizens of the world.**

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6 WHEREAS, On April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II died at the age of 84, while serving as
7 the supreme pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, after suffering from a long battle with
8 Parkinson's disease; and,

9 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul was elected the 263rd successor to Saint Peter on
10 October 16, 1978, at the age of 58, he was the youngest Pope in 132 years, and the first
11 Polish Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in over four centuries; and,

12 WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II was born in Wadowice, a small city 50 kilometres from
13 Krakow, on May 18, 1930, went to univerisity in Krakow until the Nazi occupation closed the
14 school, worked in a quarry and then in a chemical factory to earn his living and avoid
15 deportation to Germany; and,

16 WHEREAS, In 1942, he was called to the priesthood, began his courses in the
17 clandestine seminary of Krakow, after the Second World War he continued his studies in the
18 major seminary of Krakow, and then in the faculty of theology of the Jagiellonian University
19 until his ordination as a priest in Krakow in November of 1946; and,

20 WHEREAS, After further studies in Rome and Krakow, Pope John Paul was appointed
21 Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow and then was consecrated September 28, 1958. On January 13,
22 1964, he was nominated Archbishop of Krakow by Pope Paul VI, who made him a cardinal on
23 June 26, 1967; and,

24 WHEREAS, He took part in Vatican Council II and participated in all the assemblies of
25 the Synod of Bishops; and,

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WHEREAS, As Pope he wrote 14 encyclicals, 15 apostolic exhortations, 11 apostolic constitutions and 45 apostolic letters in addition to publishing five books; and,

WHEREAS, No other Pope encountered so many individuals in different faiths and made a great impact by becoming the first Pope to visit a synagogue and pray with Rome's Chief Rabbi. He directed the Vatican to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel and in 1999, he ordered the Vatican to issue a document described as an "act of repentance" for the church's failure to deter the Nazi genocide against Jews in World War II; and,

WHEREAS, He made a series of extraordinary journeys that made him one of the most familiar figures in the world, including a visit to San Francisco during his 1987 spiritual outreach tour. In addition, the Pope visited the United Nations in New York, remote islands in the Pacific, the barrios of Latin America, and rice fields in Southeast Asia; and,

WHEREAS, As a statesman he spoke on political questions and urged peace rather than war during his visits with Heads of State and numerous public officials. He successfully encouraged the largely peaceful revolts against Soviet rule in his native Poland and across Eastern Europe ; and,

WHEREAS, Pope John Paul II believed that faith must be grounded in truth and the key to freedom is love and service to god, emphasizing the importance of peace, justice and the sanctity of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors celebrates the life of Pope John Paul II and the light he brought to the world.