



HR0249

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Right Honorable The Baroness Margaret
3 Thatcher was born Margaret Hilda Roberts, the daughter of a
4 small-business grocer in Grantham, a large town in Lincolnshire
5 in rural England, on October 13, 1925; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite her humble origins in what was then a
7 strongly aristocratic, male-dominated society, Margaret
8 Roberts won a chemistry scholarship to Oxford University;
9 despite the distractions of the Blitz and World War II, she
10 studied hard and graduated with honors in 1947; and

11 WHEREAS, During her time as a student, Margaret Roberts
12 developed a deep reverence for conservative economic values,
13 which she saw as necessary bulwarks to the freedom of
14 individuals and their nations; armed with these beliefs, she
15 became president of the Oxford University Conservative
16 Association in 1946; and

17 WHEREAS, While working as a food chemist on a team that
18 helped to perfect the product called "soft-serve ice cream" in
19 the United States, Margaret Roberts continued her political
20 career and was assigned by the Conservative Party to stand for
21 Parliament in the heavily Labor-minded seat of Dartford;
22 predictably losing the election, she met businessman Denis

1 Thatcher, who would become her husband and lifelong partner in
2 1951; and

3 WHEREAS, After pursuing legal studies and qualifying as a
4 barrister in 1953, Margaret Thatcher again stood for Parliament
5 in 1959 and was elected; rising through the ranks of the
6 Conservative Members of Parliament, she was chosen in 1970 to
7 serve as Secretary of State for Education and Science and
8 became the Conservative Party Leader and Leader of the
9 Opposition in 1975; and

10 WHEREAS, Great Britain was at that time governed by a prime
11 minister and government that were ideologically committed to
12 socialism, and, perhaps as a consequence of this commitment,
13 the nation was moving towards insolvency; Opposition Leader
14 Thatcher's response, broadcast over the BBC in February of
15 1976, was to say that "Socialist governments traditionally do
16 make a financial mess. They always run out of other peoples'
17 money"; and

18 WHEREAS, As the English-speaking world faced the grim times
19 of the 1970s, Margaret Thatcher's uncompromising demand that
20 her people rediscover their historic ties to the cause of
21 individual freedom appealed to voters throughout England; on
22 May 3, 1979, these voters elected enough Conservative members
23 to the House of Parliament to give Thatcher's Opposition a

1 majority; and

2 WHEREAS, On the following day, May 4, 1979, Queen Elizabeth
3 II asked Margaret Thatcher to form a Government for the United
4 Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, making Thatcher
5 the first elected female head of government in Europe; and

6 WHEREAS, When, in November in 1980, the United Kingdom's
7 historic ally, the United States of America, voted to elect
8 Ronald Reagan to be its President, Prime Minister Thatcher had
9 a friend in the American White House with whom she could share
10 the burdens of the leadership of the free world for the
11 following 8 years; and

12 WHEREAS, Prime Minister Thatcher led the United Kingdom for
13 11 1/2 years until November of 1990, making hers the longest
14 premiership of the 20th century; her leadership was often
15 controversial, but her friends and adversaries alike agreed in
16 her unshakeable beliefs in individualism, freedom, and the
17 United Kingdom's alliance with the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, Margaret Thatcher lived to see the fall of the
19 Berlin Wall in 1989 and the dissolution of the government of
20 the Soviet Union in Moscow in 1991, as well as the complete
21 victory of the West in the Cold War, causes for which she had
22 dedicated her life; and

1 WHEREAS, The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher was awarded
2 the highest civilian honor of the United States, the
3 Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1991; and

4 WHEREAS, The Right Honorable The Baroness Thatcher passed
5 away at the age of 87 on April 8, 2013, in London; therefore,
6 be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we pay tribute to the memory of Margaret Thatcher, one of the
10 pillars of global leadership in the Cold War and one of the
11 first women to rise to the position of head of a nation of
12 world power; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge and express gratitude for the
14 friendship that Prime Minister Thatcher always bore towards the
15 United States of America and its people; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to Baroness Thatcher's daughter, Carol Thatcher; her
18 son, Mark Thatcher; the Embassy of the United Kingdom,
19 Washington, D.C.; and to the office of the Prime Minister of
20 the United Kingdom.