



HR0024

LRB099 04305 MST 25659 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the service of His Eminence,
4 Francis Eugene Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop Emeritus of
5 Chicago upon his retirement as Archbishop of Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, Cardinal George was born in Chicago on January 16,
7 1937 to Francis J. and Julia R. (nee McCarthy) George; and

8 WHEREAS, Cardinal George attended St. Pascal School on
9 Chicago's Northwest Side; he attended St. Henry Preparatory
10 Seminary in Belleville and entered the Missionary Oblates of
11 Mary Immaculate in August of 1957; he earned his bachelor's
12 degree in theology from the University of Ottawa and was
13 ordained a priest in December of 1963 by Most Reverend Raymond
14 Hillinger at his boyhood parish of St. Pascal in Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, Cardinal George earned several postgraduate
16 degrees; he received a master's degree in philosophy from The
17 Catholic University of America in 1965, a doctorate in American
18 philosophy from Tulane University in 1970, a master's degree in
19 theology from the University of Ottawa in 1971, and a Doctorate
20 of Sacred Theology in ecclesiology from the Pontifical
21 Urbaniana University in Rome in 1988; he taught at Our Lady of
22 the Lake University, Gonzaga University, the Oblate Seminary in

1 Pass Christian, Mississippi, Tulane University, and Creighton
2 University; and

3 WHEREAS, Cardinal George served the church in a number of
4 roles, including pontifical councils and commissions; in 1974,
5 he was elected vicar general of the Missionary Oblates of Mary
6 Immaculate, serving in Rome and traveling to missions in some
7 of the poorest regions of Africa, Asia, and Latin America; from
8 1973 to 1974, he served as Provincial Superior of the
9 Midwestern Province for the Oblates and, from 1987 to 1990, as
10 coordinator of the Circle of Fellows for the Cambridge Center
11 for the Study of Faith and Culture; beginning in 2007, he
12 served a 3-year term as President of the United States
13 Conference of Catholic Bishops; from 1990 to 2008, he served as
14 Episcopal Moderator and as a member of the board of the
15 National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities, now the
16 National Catholic Partnership on Disability, bringing his
17 personal experience to the position after a 5-month bout with
18 polio at the age of 13 left him with permanent damage to his
19 legs; and

20 WHEREAS, Following his appointment by Pope Saint John Paul
21 II, Cardinal George was ordained and installed in September of
22 1990 as the fifth Bishop of Yakima in Washington state, serving
23 for over 5 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Following his appointment by Pope Saint John Paul
2 II, Cardinal George was installed in May of 1996 as the ninth
3 Archbishop of Portland; and

4 WHEREAS, Following the passing of Cardinal Joseph
5 Bernardin on May 7, 1997, Cardinal George was installed as the
6 eighth Archbishop of Chicago, becoming the first native
7 Chicagoan to serve as Archbishop of Chicago, serving more than
8 2.3 million Catholics in Cook and Lake counties; when
9 delivering his homily during his installation Mass, he drew
10 upon his hometown roots, noting that Chicago is a city of
11 neighborhoods, and asked the people to think of him as
12 "Francis, your neighbor"; and

13 WHEREAS, Pope Saint John Paul II announced Cardinal
14 George's elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals and he
15 was created a Cardinal Priest during consistory on February 21,
16 1998; and

17 WHEREAS, After serving over 17 years as Archbishop,
18 Cardinal George presided over his final Mass at Holy Name
19 Cathedral on November 16, 2014, becoming the first Cardinal to
20 retire as Archbishop of Chicago; and

21 WHEREAS, On December 10, 2014, Cardinal George received the
22 Medal of Merit, the City of Chicago's highest honor; and

1 WHEREAS, Cardinal George has fought as an advocate for the
2 poor and the vulnerable, pushing for legislative reform to
3 strengthen the rights of Illinois' Latino community and
4 battling racism; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
7 thank His Eminence, Francis Eugene Cardinal George, OMI,
8 Archbishop Emeritus of Chicago for his years of service to the
9 people of Chicago, Cook County, the State of Illinois, and the
10 Archdiocese of Chicago; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Cardinal George, Archbishop Emeritus of Chicago,
13 as an expression of our respect, esteem, and best wishes.