



HR1029

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Justice Antonin Gregory Scalia served for more
3 than 29 years on the Supreme Court of the United States, rising
4 to the level of Senior Associate Justice; and

5 WHEREAS, Future Justice Antonin Scalia was born in Trenton,
6 New Jersey, the only son of an Italian immigrant from Sicily;
7 after earning his bachelor's degree at Georgetown University,
8 he matriculated at Harvard Law School in 1957, making Law
9 Review and graduating magna cum laude; and

10 WHEREAS, As a legal scholar, Justice Scalia could trace a
11 significant portion of his intellectual heritage to Illinois,
12 winning appointment to the University of Chicago Law School in
13 1977; as a teacher there, he met many members of what was
14 coming to be known as the "Chicago School" of law and
15 economics; and

16 WHEREAS, Justice Scalia's own juridical philosophy moved
17 beyond the "Chicago School", although he learned a lot from it;
18 in 1981, he became the pioneer faculty advisor to the
19 Federalist Society, which was then an association of United
20 States law students seeking to develop a legal philosophy to
21 fight back against the rampant subjectivity of "living
22 Constitution" legal theory; and

1 WHEREAS, With a developing reputation as a jurist of
2 American constitutional law, Justice Scalia won appointment in
3 August 1982 to the United States Court of Appeals for the
4 District of Columbia; he won appointment in September 1986 to
5 the Supreme Court of the United States, with both appointments
6 coming from President Ronald Reagan; and

7 WHEREAS, Upon his appointment in 1986, Justice Scalia
8 became the first Italian-American member of the nation's
9 highest court; and

10 WHEREAS, As a member of the nation's highest court for
11 almost 3 decades, Justice Scalia sought to return
12 original-intent jurisprudence to the heart of American
13 constitutional law, tirelessly reminding legal scholars, his
14 colleagues, and the American public that the power and
15 legitimacy of the federal bench derives from its members
16 standing as interpreters of the law rather than as shapers and
17 legislators of the law; and

18 WHEREAS, In his 30th year as an Associate Justice of the
19 United States Supreme Court, after having actively served
20 almost up to his very last day of life, Justice Scalia was
21 enjoying a break from his duties in the Big Bend country of far
22 west Texas, when he suddenly passed away; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite the fact that the death of Justice Scalia
2 has come at a moment of almost unprecedented partisanship in
3 United States law and politics, and with significant
4 differences in how persons of different stances view his life
5 and work, many came together to agree that he had been a giant
6 of American jurisprudence and he had always been true to his
7 philosophy and core beliefs; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 mourn the death of Justice Antonin Gregory Scalia of the
11 University of Chicago Law School and the Supreme Court of the
12 United States; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we offer our deepest respect to the memory
14 of the late Justice as a comfort to his sorrowing wife, Maureen
15 McCarthy Scalia, and to his 9 children; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to
17 Justice Scalia's widow, Maureen McCarthy Scalia; Chief Justice
18 of the United States Supreme Court, John Roberts; and to Thomas
19 J. Miles, the Dean of the University of Chicago Law School.