

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Relating to Victims of Communism Memorial Day.

Whereas, the year 2017 marked 100 years since the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, resulting in the world's first communist regime, under Vladimir Lenin, and leading to decades of oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the world; and

Whereas, based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, communism has proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given rise to such infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, Pol Pot, Nicolae Ceausescu, the Castro brothers, and the Kim Dynasty; and

Whereas, President Donald Trump declared November 7, 2017, a National Day for the Victims of Communism, condemning communism as a political philosophy "incompatible with liberty, prosperity, and the dignity of human life"; and

Whereas, the bipartisan U.S. Congressional Caucus for the Victims of Communism stated publicly in 2018 that "Marx's defenders often say he cannot be held accountable for what communist regimes did long after his life and death; but Marxist dictators who massacred their own people were applying communist ideology to political practice"; and

Whereas, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than 100 million people and subjected countless others to the worst and widest-spread human rights abuses known to history, with victims representing many different ethnicities, creeds, and backgrounds; and

Whereas, through false promises of equality and liberation,

communist regimes have, as a matter of government policy, robbed their own citizens of the rights of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of association through coercion, brutality, and fear; and

Whereas, many victims of communism were persecuted as political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and others were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges; and

Whereas, in addition to violating basic human rights, communist regimes have suppressed freedom of conscience, cultural life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the members of the Missouri Senate, One hundred first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate November 7 of each year as Victims of Communism Memorial Day; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.