

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. J. RES. 388

JOINT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the anniversaries of the Warsaw uprising and the Polish resistance to the invasion of Poland during World War II.

Whereas August 1, 1994, marks the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw uprising, an event of major significance in the history of World War II;

Whereas on August 1, 1944, the Polish Home Army, under the command of General Tedeusz Bor-Komorowski, rose up against the Nazis who had begun evacuating Warsaw in the face of the Soviet advance through Eastern Europe, held major portions of the city for 63 days against insuperable odds, and suffered extreme hardship, retribution, and personal sacrifice throughout a heroic engagement in which approximately 250,000 Poles were killed, wounded, or missing;

Whereas in reprisal for this uprising, 70 percent of the city of Warsaw was systematically demolished under the direct orders of Adolf Hitler;

Whereas September 1, 1939, marks the 55th anniversary of the invasion of Poland by the Army and Air Force of the Third Reich, which was followed just 16 days later by the Soviet invasion from the east and the subsequent occupation of a zone populated by 13,000,000 Poles, these events having led to the development of a strong underground movement directed by the Polish Government in exile;

Whereas the 3 wartime leaders of the Polish Home Army—Lieutenant General Stefan Rowecki who was murdered by the Gestapo in 1944, Lieutenant General Bor-Komorowski who was imprisoned by the Nazis and died in London in 1966, and Major General Leopold Okulicki who was imprisoned by the Soviets and perished in a Soviet jail in 1945—symbolize the supreme personal sacrifice and commitment to the cause of freedom and self-determination;

Whereas Warsaw was and continues to be the center of national life, culture, and religion for Poland;

Whereas the spirit of Polish resistance to foreign oppression and domination is symbolized by these historic events and remains a vital element in the Polish national character; and

Whereas President Clinton during his July 7, 1994, visit to Warsaw paid special tribute to these important days in Polish history, including the crucial role of the Polish Home Army in the allied war effort, and to the leaders of the Polish Home Army: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the United States recognizes the anniversary of the
4 Warsaw uprising, which stands as a poignant reminder to
5 the world of the power of the human spirit over adversity,
6 and the anniversary of the Polish resistance to the inva-
7 sion of Poland during World War II and the leaders of
8 that resistance, which symbolizes the currently continuing
9 struggle of the Polish people and freedom loving people
10 everywhere in the preservation of their liberties and in the
11 fulfillment of their national aspirations.

Passed the House of Representatives July 25, 1994.

Attest:

Clerk.

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