

TO CONFER HONORARY CITIZENSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES ON AGNES GONXHA BOJAXHIU, ALSO KNOWN AS MOTHER TERESA

SEPTEMBER 17, 1996.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. HYDE, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.J. Res. 191]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 191) to confer honorary citizenship of the United States on Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The purpose of House Joint Resolution 191 is to confer honorary United States citizenship upon Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, in recognition of her many humanitarian efforts around the world.

BACKGROUND

The Committee believes that American citizenship is the highest honor that our country can confer upon a person who is a citizen of another land. The granting of an honorary citizenship is the admission and welcoming of that person into our national family. Honorary United States citizenship has only been bestowed on individuals three times in our history. As stated by this Committee in the past, any decision to grant honorary citizenship is unique and cannot be treated as a precedent.

It should also be noted that “honorary citizenship” is a symbolic gesture. It does not grant any additional legal rights in the United States or in international law. It also does not impose additional

duties or responsibilities, in the United States or internationally, on the honoree.

In line with the above statements, the resolution notes that the United States has conferred honorary citizenship on only three occasions in the last two hundred years, and that honorary citizenship is and should always be an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred and rarely given.

This resolution contains statements defining the extraordinary act of conferring honorary citizenship and acknowledging the many efforts made by Mother Teresa which are the basis for granting her honorary United States citizenship.

The resolution acknowledges Mother Teresa's tireless work with orphaned and abandoned children, the poor, the sick, and the dying; that she founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950; and has taken in those who have been rejected as "unacceptable" and cared for them when no one else would, regardless of their race, color, creed, or condition. September 10, 1946 was Mother Teresa's "day of decision". On that date she requested permission from her superior to leave the cloister to go work in the Calcutta slums. On that day, the world was given the gift of Mother Teresa's personal life mission to protect the unprotected. After four years in Calcutta, she received approval to institute the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. The Missionaries of Charity currently operates more than 50 schools, orphanages and houses for the poor in many countries. Her congregation includes several thousand sisters and brothers working with the poor, orphaned, disabled, sick, and dying to provide them with sustenance, medical assistance and education.

This resolution further notes that Mother Teresa has received numerous honors, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and the 1985 Presidential Medal of Freedom. Among the other honors awarded Mother Teresa are: the 1971 Pope John XXIII Peace prize; the 1973 Templeton Foundation prize; the 1980 Bharat Ratna (Star of India); the 1989 Woman of the Year award; the 1992 Notre Dame University award; the 1994 U Thant Peace award. In 1982, Mother Teresa was named an honorary citizen of Assisi. In 1992, she was also named an honorary fellow by the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

Mother Teresa has worked in areas all over the world, including the United States, to provide comfort to the world's neediest. Mother Teresa's faith and mission have infused a world beset by warfare, disease, and poverty. She has affirmed more so than any other single person of our age, and as few persons have throughout the course of human history, the intrinsic value and dignity of every human life. Whether with the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, the victims of sectarian violence in Beirut, or those suffering from AIDS in New York, Washington, D.C., and other American cities, she has defined the reach of human compassion.

Mother Teresa through her Missionaries of Charity has established many soup kitchens, emergency shelters for women, shelters for unwed mothers, shelters for men, after-school and summer camp programs for children, homes for the dying, prison ministry, nursing homes, and shut-in ministry within the United States.

Mother Teresa has been called a "saint" by people of all religious denominations. Through her many selfless acts, she has inspired

millions to realize that in their own daily lives, they too are capable of doing “something beautiful for God”.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, the Committee believes it is appropriate to bestow upon Mother Teresa our country’s highest honor.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On September 11, 1996, the Committee met in open session and order reported favorably the joint resolution H.J. Res. 191, without amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

No findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight were received as referred to in clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 2(1)(3)(B) of House rule XI is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 2(1)(C)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 191, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 1996.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.J. Res. 191, a joint resolution to confer honorary citizenship of the United States on Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhui, also known as Mother Teresa. The joint resolution was ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 11, 1996. CBO estimates that enacting H.J. Res. 191 would result in no significant cost to the federal government. We estimate that enacting the joint resolution would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.J. Res. 191 would impose no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform

Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4), and CBO estimates that its enactment would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM
(For June E. O’Neill, Director).

INFLATIONARY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 2(1)(4) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates that H.J. Res. 191 will have no significant inflationary impact on prices and costs in the national economy.

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