

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF POPE FRANCIS

WHEREAS, the members of the 132nd Maine State Legislature were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Pope Francis on Monday, April 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, born on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis entered the Society of Jesus at age 21 and was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1969. He was appointed auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires in 1992 by Saint John Paul II, became archbishop of the Argentine capital in 1998 and was created cardinal in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis ascended to the papacy on March 13, 2013, upon the retirement of his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI, becoming the first pontiff from Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis dedicated his entire life to the service of God and His Church and teaching the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially for the poorest and most marginalized; and

WHEREAS, during his almost 13-year pontificate, Pope Francis focused on mercy, care for creation and attention to those on the "peripheries of both the Church and society"; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis canonized 942 saints during his papacy; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis published 4 encyclicals, *Dilexit Nos* ("He Loved Us"), *Fratelli Tutti* ("All Brothers"), *Laudato Si* ("Praise be to You") and *Lumen Fidei* ("The Light of Faith"), as well as 7 apostolic exhortations and 75 *motu proprio* documents; and

WHEREAS, just hours before his death, Pope Francis reminded the faithful of the dignity of all persons, but most especially the vulnerable, the marginalized and migrants, and encouraged all of us "to hope anew and revive our trust in others, including those who are different from ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas"; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis led a holy life focused on humility, simplicity, poverty of spirit and a radical devotion to Christ's call of charity to the least among us; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the abundant life of this human being and successor to Saint Peter; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to honor the memory of Pope Francis, reflecting fondly upon his immense holiness and his legacy of service to those most in need.