



HR0918

LRB101 22160 ECR 73187 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, August 31, 2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Solidarnosc, or Solidarity, trade union in Poland; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Poland's government raised food prices while wages were stagnant; this and other stresses led to protests and a subsequent government crackdown on dissent; on August 7, 1980, tension was further raised when shipyard worker Anna Walentynowicz was fired five months before retirement from the Gdansk Shipyard for participation in an illegal trade union; her firing enraged the shipyard workers, who then staged a strike on August 14; on August 31, 1980, the communist government in Poland and striking workers signed the Gdansk agreements, which allowed the Solidarnosc trade union to exist; and

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WHEREAS, The Solidarnosc trade union is recognized around the world as a beacon of hope and as a symbol of the nonviolent fight for freedom and equality; Solidarity was the first of its kind in a Soviet bloc country and played an instrumental role in ending communism in Poland and Eastern Europe; and

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WHEREAS, Support from Polish Americans during the strike was a significant factor for the workers' victory; American

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1 support for the workers brought this issue forward in  
2 international politics and placed significant pressure on the  
3 Polish government to reach an equitable agreement; therefore,  
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we commend the contributions Polish Americans played in  
8 supporting Polish solidarity during turbulent times in the 1980s.