

Public Law 104–218  
104th Congress

Joint Resolution

To confer honorary citizenship of the United States on Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu,  
also known as Mother Teresa.

Oct. 1, 1996  
[H.J. Res. 191]

Whereas the United States has conferred honorary citizenship on only three occasions in its more than two hundred years, and honorary citizenship is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted;

Whereas Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, better known throughout the world as Mother Teresa, has worked tirelessly with orphaned and abandoned children, the poor, the sick, and the dying;

Whereas Mother Teresa 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 race, color, creed, or condition;

Whereas Mother Teresa has deservedly received numerous honors, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and the 1985 Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Mother Teresa has worked in areas all over the world, including the United States, to provide comfort to the world’s neediest; and

Whereas Mother Teresa through her Missionaries of Charity has established within the United States numerous 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 hospital and shut-in ministry: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, is proclaimed to be an honorary citizen of the United States of America.*

Approved October 1, 1996.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 191:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 104–796 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 142 (1996):

Sept. 17, considered and passed House.

Sept. 18, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 32 (1996):

Oct. 1, Presidential statement.

