

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 775

Commending the Community of Sant'Egidio for their extensive charity and generosity on behalf of the poor throughout the world.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Commending the Community of Sant'Egidio for their extensive charity and generosity on behalf of the poor throughout the world.

Whereas the Community of Sant'Egidio began in Rome in 1968, following the Second Vatican Council, at the initiative of high school student Andrea Riccardi who gathered a group of like-minded high-school students to engage people in their community with a message of peace and dialogue;

Whereas, upon its founding, the group began working in crowded slums on the outskirts of Rome, beginning an afternoon school for children called Scuola Popolare, now known as Schools of Peace, which has since grown to

over 50,000 permanent members in 70 countries and on four continents;

Whereas the Community Sant'Egidio has spread itself throughout the world and has assisted additional people, including the physically and mentally disabled, homeless, foreign immigrants, and terminally ill, and has worked in prisons, homes for the elderly, gypsy, and refugee camps;

Whereas the Community Sant'Egidio helped to mediate the conflicting parties in the peace negotiations which led to the peace agreement in Mozambique, and it has taken part in peace and disarmament negotiations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Sudan, and has coordinated humanitarian relief for refugees worldwide;

Whereas Pope John Paul II recognized the Community of Sant'Egidio in a message to the 2002 Prayer for Peace, saying "I would like to thank especially the Community of Sant'Egidio for the enthusiasm and the spiritual courage shown in accepting the message of Assisi and bringing it to so many places in the world through the meeting of men of different religions"; and

Whereas the Community Sant'Egidio has received numerous awards for international service, including the Niwano Peace Prize, the UNESCO Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize, and the International Montessori Prize "Education and Peace": Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) commends the Community of Sant'Egidio
- 3 for their extensive charity and generosity on behalf
- 4 of the poor throughout the world;

1 (2) honors the Community of Sant'Egidio for
2 promoting, negotiating, and brokering peace
3 throughout the world, but especially in Africa;

4 (3) pays tribute to the Community of
5 Sant'Egidio for providing aid to refugees of war and
6 natural disasters around the world;

7 (4) applauds the Community of Sant'Egidio for
8 promoting respect and mutual understanding among
9 the different religions of the world; and

10 (5) thanks the Community of Sant'Egidio for
11 providing the international forum of the 2006 Pray-
12 er for Peace, thereby assisting in the resolution of
13 conflicts in a peaceful manner.

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