

1999 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming May 3rd of every year, Trzeciego Maja Day.

2 Whereas, “Trzeciego Maja”, May 3, 1999, marks the 208th anniversary of the
3 signing of the Polish Constitution on May 3, 1791; and

4 Whereas, the Polish Constitution was the first written constitution in Europe;
5 and

6 Whereas, the Polish Constitution, modeled after that of the United States,
7 established the bold principle that the power to govern emanates from the people;
8 and

9 Whereas, the Polish Constitution established a bicameral legislature, a system
10 of checks and balances, an elected judiciary and trial by jury, the concept of habeas
11 corpus and freedom of religion; and

12 Whereas, this document, described as “radical, if not revolutionary” by the
13 tyrants of 18th century Europe, was nonetheless adopted without bloodshed; and

14 Whereas, the Polish Constitution was the product of a cross section of the best
15 Polish political thought of the time, far-reaching in intent, with the promise for all

1 Polish citizens of a democratic form of government, one that would ensure all citizens
2 respect and consideration; and

3 Whereas, the democratic and Western-oriented ideals inherent in the first
4 Polish Constitution live on today within a citizenry that has played a leading role in
5 bringing an end to Communism in Eastern Europe and in the country that was the
6 Soviet Union and whose elected representatives are presently at work building a new
7 societal system based on the precepts of political liberty linked in spirit to Poland's
8 historic values as embodied in the Polish Constitution of 1791; now, therefore, be it

9 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature of
10 the state of Wisconsin recognizes the contribution of the Polish Constitution to the
11 advancement of democracy and freedom by proclaiming May 3rd of every year,
12 “Trzeciego Maja Day” in the state of Wisconsin and invites all citizens to join their
13 fellow Wisconsinites of Polish descent in celebrating Polish Constitution Day,
14 “Trzeciego Maja”.

15 (END)