



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 92

October 29, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives J. FITZGERALD, TAUCHEN, ZIEGELBAUER, PRIDEMORE, VUKMIR, BALLWEG, KERKMAN, SUDER, VOS, NEWCOMER, MURSAU, STRACHOTA, BIES, TOWNSEND, MEYER, KNODL, LOTHIAN, KESTELL, LEMAHIEU, GUNDERSON, GOTTLIEB, PETROWSKI, CLARK, DAVIS, A. OTT and M. WILLIAMS, cosponsored by Senator S. FITZGERALD. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the
2 symbolic end of the Cold War.

3 Whereas, November 9, 2009, marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the
4 Berlin Wall and the symbolic end of the Cold War; and

5 Whereas, the Cold War was an enduring struggle between communism and
6 democracy throughout the second half of the 20th century; and

7 Whereas, the last United States president to speak at the Brandenburg Gate
8 prior to the destruction of the Berlin Wall was President Ronald Reagan, who, in
9 June 1987, stated, “General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek
10 prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come
11 here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this
12 wall!”; and

13 Whereas, two years later, in September 1989, protests that the East Germans
14 called the “Peaceful Revolution” broke out, with protestors at first chanting “We want

1 out!”, and then gradually changing that protest cry to “We’re staying here!”,
2 demonstrating their desire for democracy in their part of Germany; and

3 Whereas, on November 9, 1989, in response to protests that had grown to
4 include over 1,000,000 people in Berlin’s Alexanderplatz, Gunter Schabowski, the
5 communist East German minister of propaganda, announced that the border would
6 be opened for “private trips abroad”; and

7 Whereas, thousands of people in East Berlin immediately flooded the
8 checkpoints at the Berlin Wall and demanded entry into West Berlin causing the
9 overwhelmed East German border guards to open the border checkpoints to allow
10 people to cross into West Berlin; and

11 Whereas, people in West Berlin enthusiastically greeted those coming across
12 from East Berlin, dancing atop the Berlin Wall and hammering chunks out of it until
13 a section opened through which more East Germans walked and shouted out
14 “Freedom! Freedom! Just once, Freedom!”; and

15 Whereas, over 400,000,000 people were freed from the bondage of communism
16 at the end of the Cold War in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia,
17 Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
18 Uzbekistan, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria,
19 Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania; and

20 Whereas, the victory of the United States in the Cold War will signify freedom
21 from oppression for decades to come; and

22 Whereas, Berlin, Germany, will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the
23 Berlin Wall with the “Festival of Freedom”; and

1 Whereas, the fall of the Berlin Wall was one of the most significant events of the
2 20th century and symbolized the triumph of democracy over communism; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
5 Wisconsin state legislature recognize November 9, 2009, as the 20th anniversary of
6 the fall of the Berlin Wall; and, be it further

7 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin state legislature celebrate 20
8 years of freedom from the bondage of communism with the people of the former
9 communist countries, and acknowledge the symbolic triumph of democracy over
10 communism.

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(END)