

## **1999 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11**

March 2, 1999 – Introduced by Senators Drzewiecki, Shibilski, Moen, Zien, Grobschmidt, Schultz, Darling and Erpenbach, cosponsored by Representatives Ryba, Suder, Plale, Rhoades, Hahn, Sykora, Urban, Montgomery, Krug, Gronemus, Bock, Miller, Seratti, Kreuser and Owens. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

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

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

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

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

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(END)