

HR324 INTRODUCED



1 HR324
2 FKYGBC5-1
3 By Representative Pringle
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 01-Apr-26



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HR _____ HONORING FATHER MITCH PACWA ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS ORDINATION AS A PRIEST.

WHEREAS, Father Mitch Pacwa is a Roman Catholic priest who was ordained on June 12, 1976, after entering the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order) on August 21, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Father Pacwa hails originally from Chicago, Illinois, but has studied and worked in Detroit, Michigan; Nashville, Tennessee; and Dallas, Texas, among other cities, before moving to Alabama in December 2001; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Theology *summa cum laude* from the University of Detroit in 1972 and his Master of Divinity and Sacred Theology Baccalaureate *magna cum laude* from the Jesuit School of Theology at Loyola University in 1979, followed by a Master's and PhD in Old Testament studies from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Father Pacwa has taught at the high school, university, and seminary levels and is a well-known Biblical scholar, having a working and teaching knowledge of Koine Greek and dialects of Hebrew and Aramaic; he also taught Hebrew at Loyola University in Chicago for nine years; and

WHEREAS, he has led thousands of pilgrims to the Holy Land and other Christian sites in Europe and the Middle East, exhibiting a deep knowledge and understanding of



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29 Christianity and its role in cultures around the world; and

30 WHEREAS, Father Pacwa is the author of more than 20
31 books; is the founder of Ignatius Productions, an
32 educational publishing company; and is a Senior Fellow at
33 the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology; and

34 WHEREAS, he may be best known for his use of radio
35 and televised media, providing theological teaching through
36 the global platform of the Eternal Word Television Network
37 (EWTN) in Irondale, Alabama, which reaches more than 160
38 countries and territories, across 435 million households;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, Father Pacwa began his career with EWTN
41 under its foundress, Mother Angelica, in 1984, and he
42 relocated to Birmingham in late 2001 to work full-time with
43 EWTN, where he is the host of several radio and television
44 shows, series, and documentaries that teach and expound upon
45 the Catholic faith; and

46 WHEREAS, Alabama-based EWTN is the largest religious
47 media network in the world, and one of the most recognized
48 faces of EWTN is Father Pacwa, who has become known as a
49 trusted resource for knowledge of the Catholic faith; and

50 WHEREAS, in addition to his publications and media
51 presence, Father Pacwa serves his community through not only
52 celebrating the Latin Mass at EWTN's Chapel, but also by
53 using his rare bi-ritual facility to frequently celebrate
54 the Maronite Catholic Mass at St. Elias Maronite Church, an
55 Eastern Catholic Church, in the historic Glen Iris community
56 in Birmingham; and



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57 WHEREAS, he also engages in prison ministry, serving
58 the spiritual needs of and evangelizing prisoners, and
59 supporting a prison ministry organization that works with a
60 broad footprint of prisons; and

61 WHEREAS, Father Pacwa will celebrate the 50th
62 Anniversary of his ordination as a Catholic priest on June
63 12, 2026, having distinguished himself not only with
64 longevity in his vocation, but also with a career that has
65 touched the lives of innumerable people, many of them
66 residents of Alabama, but also worldwide, through his
67 efforts in theological education, service to others, and
68 ministry; now therefore,

69 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
70 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we honor Father Mitch Pacwa on
71 the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the Catholic
72 priesthood and for his tremendous contributions through his
73 personal ministry to Alabamians and those that he has
74 trained throughout the country, and through his worldwide
75 impact through Alabama-based EWTN, with hopes that he may
76 continue his exceptional ministry and continue to serve
77 others in a way that reflects well on this state and nation,
78 and on his Church.