

No. R-233. House concurrent resolution honoring the inspiring family of Felipe and Elena Ixcot and the Benedictine Brothers of the Weston Priory who offered them refuge and love for a quarter of a century.

(H.C.R.184)

Offered by: Representative Olsen of Jamaica

Offered by: Senators Campbell, McCormack, Nitka, Sears, Snelling and White

Whereas, in the 1980s, a contingent of Benedictine monks from the Weston Priory accompanied a group of Mexican Benedictine sisters to the Guatemalan refugee camps in Mexico, where they heard first-hand accounts of human oppression, and

Whereas, in reaction to their emotional journey, Benedictine brother John wrote a moving article entitled “Tell Your People” that was published in “Sojourner’s Magazine,” and

Whereas, in 1984, seeking to respond more proactively to this fundamental violation of human rights, the Benedictine brothers designated the Weston Priory a sanctuary for refugees, and

Whereas, Felipe and Elena Ixcot and their five children—Sonia, Julio, Alicia, Juanita, and Maya—were selected to reside in the Weston Priory’s converted barn and cider mill, which was renamed Casa Guadalupe, and

Whereas, the motorcade that transported the Ixcot family from Chicago, where they had initially arrived from Guatemala, to Vermont served as an opportunity to publicize the plight of Central American refugees, and

Whereas, a festive service of prayer that many well-wishers attended welcomed the Ixcot family to the Weston Priory, and

Whereas, the surrounding community offered many forms of assistance as the Ixcot family adjusted and flourished at Casa Guadalupe, and

Whereas, Ixcot sisters Sonia, Alicia, Juanita, and Maya have now become American citizens, have graduated from college, and are pursuing careers in the United States while ever mindful of their heritage, and

Whereas, recently improved political conditions in Guatemala have enabled their parents and brother Julio to return to their native village, build a new home, and, with financial support from friends in the United States, establish a midwifery center for indigenous women, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the inspiring family of Felipe and Elena Ixcot and the Benedictine brothers of the Weston Priory who offered them refuge and love for a quarter of a century, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send copies of this resolution to brother John at the Weston Priory and members of the Ixcot family.