

House Resolution 985

By: Representatives Romman of the 97th, Holly of the 116th, Frye of the 122nd, Park of the 107th, Lim of the 98th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of the Very Reverend Father George Shukri Makhlouf; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Very Reverend Father George Shukri Makhlouf passed on December 21, 2024,
4 at the age of 81; and

5 WHEREAS, he was a beloved father, devoted servant of God, a loving husband, and a
6 tireless advocate for peace and justice; and

7 WHEREAS, Very Reverend Father George's life was defined by unwavering faith, boundless
8 love, and selfless service; and

9 WHEREAS, he was born in Palestine and was one of 750,000 Palestinian Nakba survivors,
10 enduring the hardships of being orphaned and expelled from his home in West Jerusalem to
11 Jifna in 1948; and

12 WHEREAS, Very Reverend Father George found refuge in the church and prayer,
13 completing his theological studies at a Catholic seminary in Paris; and

14 WHEREAS, he began his professional journey as an educator at the Greek Catholic School
15 of Our Lady of Annunciation in Ramallah, Palestine, and later at the Ramallah Friends
16 School; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1985, he answered the call to priesthood and was ordained in the Church of
18 the Holy Sepulcher; and

19 WHEREAS, Very Reverend Father George served faithfully at the Orthodox Church in
20 Ramallah before immigrating to the United States, where he became pastor of the Virgin
21 Mary Church in Yonkers, New York, and later served at St. John Orthodox Church on Long
22 Island; and

23 WHEREAS, in his later years, he continued his ministry as an adjunct retired priest at St.
24 Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church in Atlanta, Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, his wisdom, humility, and kindness touched countless lives throughout his
26 ministry; and

27 WHEREAS, he dedicated his life to pastoral duties and to advocacy for justice and peace in
28 his homeland, Palestine; and

29 WHEREAS, he represented Palestine on both local and international platforms, participating
30 in numerous political and interfaith conferences; collaborating with political leaders, rabbis,
31 imams, and religious figures of all faiths; and tirelessly raised his voice for the oppressed;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, his commitment to justice, equality, and the dignity of all people formed the
34 cornerstone of his legacy; and

35 WHEREAS, Very Reverend Father George is survived by his two sons, Shukri and Majeed;
36 his brother, Joseph; his cherished nephews and nieces; and his seven beloved granddaughters,
37 Raina, Isabella, Zaina, Arianna, Laila, Natalia, and Noelie, who brought light to his later
38 years.

39 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES the
40 members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of the Very Reverend Father
41 George Shukri Makhoul and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
44 public and the press.