

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights;

Whereas the patriot James Madison, fourth President of the United States, was the major author of the Virginia Plan, the model and the basis for that United States Constitution that emerged from the Constitutional Convention in 1787;

Whereas James Madison kept detailed written records of the debates and compromises that were in integral part of that Convention of 1787, which records were published only after the death of all delegates to the Convention;

Whereas James Madison wrote many of the newspaper articles now known as the Federalist Papers, outlining why States should endorse the new Constitution and enduring as some of the best arguments for our form of government;

Whereas James Madison introduced the Bill of Rights into the 1st Congress of the United States, whereupon the first ten amendments to the Constitution were adopted; and

Whereas it is altogether fitting that the 16th day of March, the birthday of the distinguished founding father, James Madison, would serve as a fitting reminder of Liberty Day, a celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, where our unalienable rights and liberties are enumerated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) a Liberty Day should be celebrated each year in the United States as a remembrance of both the freedom that Americans were given in the Declaration of Independence and the extraordinary rights and liberties that Americans were given in their Constitution; and

(2) all elected and previously-elected representatives of the people who voluntarily give of their time to speak to Americans about those founding documents, in furtherance of that remembrance of our freedom, our rights and our liberties, deserve our thanks.

Passed the House of Representatives October 10, 2000.

Attest:

Clerk.