

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1016

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Proclaiming December fifteenth, Bill of Rights Day.

WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers, having fought a revolution to throw off tyranny and secure the blessings of liberty to their countrymen and their posterity, did ordain and establish a government bound by a Constitution, the law of this great land; and

WHEREAS, the representatives of a number of the States, understanding from their study of history that governments tend to abuse their powers, refused to enter their States into the Union without restrictive clauses in the Constitution declaring what the government was not allowed to do; and

WHEREAS, these restrictive clauses were added in the form of the first ten Amendments to the United States Constitution, and were thereafter known collectively as the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights recognizes and guarantees, against infringement by government, the preexisting and unalienable individual rights and freedoms for which peoples of all races have struggled for thousands of years, and which were granted not by our government, but by our Creator; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve these rights, great numbers of our Forefathers, and men and women of our armed forces and uniformed services, and of our citizenry, have fought, suffered, sacrificed, and died; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights were ratified on December 15, 1791; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights provides a historic opportunity for all Americans to reflect upon the meaning and importance of the Bill of Rights, to realize and ponder the sacrifices and achievements of the Founders, and to understand and appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship of this great nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby proclaims December fifteenth of every year be designated a working holiday named "Bill of Rights Day," encourages our citizens to observe this day, fly the flag, and read the Bill of Rights for themselves and to their children, urges all primary and secondary schools to take this day to reflect, with their pupils and students, upon the meaning and importance of each of the ten Amendments

which make up the Bill of Rights, and hereby proclaims that the first annual Bill of Rights Day in South Dakota shall be on December 15, 1998.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 25, 1998
February 26, 1998

Rex Hagg
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Carole Hillard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate