

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. J. RES. 328

Designating the week beginning May 1, 1994, as "Arson Awareness Week".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1994

Mr. WELDON (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. VALENTINE) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning May 1, 1994, as "Arson Awareness Week".

Whereas fires annually cause nearly 6,000 deaths and \$10,000,000,000 in property damage in the United States;

Whereas the United States has higher fire property loss per capita than any other industrialized country;

Whereas there are 100,000 known incendiary fires, 50,000 incendiary vehicle fires, and 25,000 incendiary wildland fires annually in the United States;

Whereas arson is responsible for approximately 25 percent of all fires in the United States;

Whereas one of the leading causes of fire deaths in the United States is arson, which accounts for over 700 deaths annually in the United States;

Whereas arson is the leading cause of property damage due to fire in the United States, and is responsible for losses of \$2,000,000,000, or approximately 1 of every 4 dollars lost to fire, annually in the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Fire Protection Association, only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the suspicious and incendiary fires in the United States are confirmed as arson;

Whereas 13 of the 22 fire storms in Southern California in October and November of 1993 were caused by arson, and resulted in over 126,000 burned acres, \$320,000,000 in damage, and injury to 97 people; and

Whereas a week set aside for arson awareness would increase public knowledge about the large impact of the crime:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the week beginning May 1, 1994, is designated as
4 “Arson Awareness Week”, and the President is authorized
5 and requested to issue a proclamation calling on all public
6 officials and the people of the United States to observe
7 the week with appropriate programs and activities.

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