

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 475

Recognizing and celebrating the origin and purposes of Constitution Week.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2002

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. CHABOT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and celebrating the origin and purposes of
Constitution Week.

Whereas September 17th marks the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution;

Whereas this date was designated as Constitution Day until 1952 when Congress changed the name of that date to Citizenship Day;

Whereas the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution felt this change of emphasis away from the Constitution was not warranted, and in 1953 they passed a resolution asking Congress to restore Constitution Day;

Whereas in 1955 Daughters of the American Revolution President General Gertrude Carraway met with then Vice President Richard Nixon and Senators Lyndon Johnson

and William Knowland and presented the case for a Constitution Week;

Whereas Senator Knowland introduced a resolution requesting and authorizing President Eisenhower to proclaim September 17–23 as Constitution Week;

Whereas the resolution was passed by Congress, and President Eisenhower issued a proclamation for Constitution Week but was reluctant to establish it as an annual celebration;

Whereas at the urging of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Senator Knowland introduced a joint resolution on January 5, 1956, urging the President to annually designate September 17–23 as Constitution Week;

Whereas this resolution was adopted and signed into law on August 2, 1956;

Whereas thus conceived and instituted, Constitution Week is now an annual event commemorating and celebrating the Constitution; and

Whereas President George W. Bush stated, “We each should serve our Nation by actively supporting and shaping our Government’s institutions, by working together to build strong communities, and by loving our neighbors . . . doing this will ensure that the American dream will become real for every willing citizen, and, in fulfilling this call together, we will honor the spirit of our powerful and enduring Constitution”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That Congress recognizes and celebrates the
- 3 origin and purposes of Constitution Week.

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