

House Concurrent Resolution No. 63

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HAEFNER.

5598H.01P

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to DeMolay Day.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

1 **WHEREAS**, it is important for children of all ages to develop conscious social and
2 historical awareness through practical leadership training, hands-on learning, and modern,
3 dynamic extracurricular activities and education; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, the importance of developing real-world experience and community values
6 at an early age is magnified in light of the increasing number of high school and college
7 graduates unable to compete in the modern workforce or find their place as ethical and valuable
8 contributing citizens; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, the future of our communities, state, and nation, and preservation of the
11 sacred values, human rights, and timeless principles upon which equality, justice, and freedom
12 stand, is dependent on giving every child the opportunity and inspiration to succeed in life; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, in order to perpetuate human progress, enfranchise human thought,
15 preserve the freedom of human conscience, and guarantee equal rights to all, it is crucial to focus
16 attention on ensuring that children engage in opportunity-creating activities, leadership, and
17 public speaking training and education, and early community involvement with adult mentors;
18 and
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20 **WHEREAS**, increasing the development of essential skills and relevant, necessary
21 education that is applicable to real-life situations will lead to a more enlightened, inspired, and
22 optimistic citizenry; and
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24 **WHEREAS**, increasing the number of young persons who designate a portion of their
25 time each week to work and connect with adult mentors and volunteers will lead to decreased
26 numbers of uneducated, unemployed, and uninspired citizens; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, the Order of DeMolay was founded in Kansas City, Missouri in 1919 for
29 the purpose of giving young people higher education, guidance in life, and an environment to
30 develop critical leadership skills, social value, universal moral ethics, greater intellectual
31 learning, and the inspiration to succeed in all facets of their lives through service to others and
32 service to our world at large; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, Missouri DeMolay offers advanced degrees to its members and students,
35 including higher education in the areas of communication, history, philosophy, psychology, and
36 ethics and offers leadership and business training with concentrations on small and large group
37 facilitation, project organization, public speaking, scheduling, and budgeting; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, the Order of DeMolay has been a breeding ground for not only many
40 prominent industry, business, professional sports, military, and world leaders, including
41 presidents, governors, congressmen, astronauts, national radio and television personalities, but
42 also a vast number of other valuable contributing citizens participating in all walks of life in our
43 society for nearly a century; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, graduates of the DeMolay program, including Governor Melvin E.
46 Carnahan; entertainers and entrepreneurs Walt Disney, Mel Blanc, Burl Ives, Paul Harvey,
47 Buddy Ebsen, John Wayne, and Gary Collins; author John Steinbeck, astronauts Frank Borman
48 and Edgar Mitchell; journalist Paul Harvey; Governor and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Edward
49 T. Schafer; Ambassador Leonard G. Shurtleff; professional football player Fran Tarkenton;
50 Congressman and Ambassador Walter C. Ploeser; president and CEO of the San Diego Chargers
51 Dean Spanos; Senator and Governor Mark Hatfield; Olympian and politician Bob Mathias; and
52 broadcasting legends Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather, David C. Goodnow, and John King, to name
53 a few, have all profusely expressed that their early experiences and higher education in the Order
54 of DeMolay were the foundation and springboard to their successes; and

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56 **WHEREAS**, President Harry S. Truman of Missouri was elected as an Honorary Grand
57 Master of the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, and he frequently sought
58 the counsel and wisdom of DeMolay's founder, Frank S. Land. President Truman publically and
59 fervently revered the youth leadership organization and exclaimed, "The greatest honor that has

60 ever come to me, and that can ever come to me in my life, is to be the Grand Master of Masons
61 in Missouri,” the sponsoring body of Missouri DeMolay; and

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63 **WHEREAS**, Walt Disney, an original member of the DeMolay Chapter in Kansas City,
64 Mother Chapter, and founder of what is now a worldwide and massively iconic company, stated,
65 “I feel a great sense of obligation and gratitude toward the Order of DeMolay for the important
66 part it played in my life. Its precepts have been invaluable in making decisions, facing dilemmas,
67 and crises. DeMolay stands for all that is good for the family and for our country. I feel
68 privileged to have enjoyed membership in DeMolay”; and

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70 **WHEREAS**, the Order of DeMolay is a youth leadership organization built on
71 wholesome, fundamental values that transcend religious, political, or ideological affiliation: love
72 of parents, reverence for all that is sacred, courtesy, friendship, fidelity, cleanness, and
73 patriotism; and that gives incredible credence to faith, and champions the positive values of
74 spirituality without diminishing or favoring any one particular dogma or religious creed, and is
75 built upon the sacred foundations of loyalty, toleration, human liberty, and human progress; and

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77 **WHEREAS**, the Order of DeMolay has spread to twenty-four countries around the world
78 to date, all with various political, religious, and cultural foundations; and

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80 **WHEREAS**, there are numerous DeMolay chapters in the state of Missouri, including
81 clubs being developed on Missouri college campuses, with over one thousand active DeMolays
82 and thousands more alumni who are actively involved in serving their communities; and

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84 **WHEREAS**, Missouri has been a leader in DeMolay International since 1919 in the most
85 worthy needed causes, including education, membership, programming, and youth leadership:

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87 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
88 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
89 concurring therein, hereby recognize Missouri DeMolay as an Institution of Higher Education
90 and designate March eighteenth of each year as DeMolay Day and recommend that the citizens
91 of the state engage in activities and conscious awareness to highlight the importance of youth
92 leadership, rewarding higher education, and learning the cultural and historical significance of
93 freedom of thought, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech in conjunction with the
94 recognition of the consecrated leadership and wisdom of those who came before us who

95 established, fought, and died for the perpetuation and preservation of such high universal ideals
96 throughout the world; and

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98 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
99 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
100 executive officer of the Missouri chapter of DeMolay International.

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