

HCB 3 -- STATE HOLIDAYS DESIGNATIONS

SPONSOR: Justus

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "to Introduce" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill creates 13 new calendar designations in the State of Missouri.

The first Friday in May each year shall be known as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day," in order to encourage the citizens to observe the day with appropriate activities and events to recognize and support the brave men and women who undertake the difficult and sometimes unattainable pledge to protect and serve the public (Section 9.052, RSMo).

November 9th shall be known as "Stars and Stripes Day" to commemorate Missouri's role in the creation of the newspaper of the United States Armed Forces (Section 9.090).

May 26th of each year shall be "Battle of St. Louis Memorial Day" to commemorate the only battle of the American Revolution fought in Missouri (Section 9.117).

The month of May shall be known as "Mental Health Awareness Month" in order to encourage citizens to participate in appropriate awareness and educational activities that emphasize the importance of good mental health and the effects of mental illness on Missourians (Section 9.152).

January 5th is hereby designated as "Kappa Alpha Psi Day" in the state of Missouri. The citizens of this state are encouraged to observe the day with appropriate activities and events to commemorate the founding of the first nationally incorporated college fraternity for African Americans (Section 9.159).

The month of July shall be known as "Minority Mental Health Awareness Month," in order to encourage citizens to observe the month with appropriate events and activities to raise awareness of the effects of mental illness on minorities (Section 9.166).

August 31st of each year shall be "Random Acts of Kindness Day" to mark the beginning of suicide prevention awareness month in September. Citizens are encouraged to commit small acts of kindness that can change a person's life (Section 9.169).

The month of September shall be designated as "Deaf Awareness

Month" and the last week of September shall be designated as "Deaf Awareness Week" in Missouri. The citizens of this state are encouraged to participate in appropriate activities and events to commemorate the first World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in 1951 and to increase awareness of deaf issues, people, and culture (Section 9.182).

November 30th of each year shall be "Mark Twain Day" to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Mark Twain (Section 9.225).

March 5th of each year shall be "Iron Curtain Speech Day" to commemorate the anniversary of Winston Churchill's speech at Westminster College, in Fulton, in 1946 (Section 9.227).

The second Wednesday in May shall be known as "Celiac Awareness Day" in order to encourage citizens to participate in appropriate activities to increase awareness of Celiac disease (Section 9.235).

July 7th of each year shall be known as "Missouri Sliced Bread Day" to encourage citizens to participate in appropriate activities and events to commemorate the first sale of sliced bread in 1928 in Chillicothe, Missouri (Section 9.240).

June shall be known as "Myasthenia Gravis Month" to encourage support and diagnosis for this progressive, but treatable and difficult to diagnose condition (Section 9.275).

December 25th of every year shall be known as Christmas Day (Section 9.284).

September 9th shall be known as "Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day" to bring awareness of this childhood cancer (Section 9.285).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is another vehicle to try to get a few holiday designations to the finish line.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Justus.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.