

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTZ.

2422H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to the national day of the cowboy.

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

1 **WHEREAS**, Missouri's pioneering men and women, known as cowboys, helped
2 establish America's frontier; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, the first large-scale effort to drive cattle from Texas to the nearest
5 railhead for shipment to Chicago occurred in 1866, when many Texas ranchers banded
6 together to drive their cattle to the closest point that railroad tracks reached, which at that time
7 was Sedalia, Missouri, now known as the Trail's End in Sedalia, Missouri; and

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9 **WHEREAS**, the Kansas City Stockyards were established in 1871 in the West
10 Bottoms, west of downtown Kansas City, and flourished until closing in 1991. The
11 stockyards were built around the facilities of the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak
12 Express Company, which had outfitted travelers on the Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail
13 following the Kansas River. The company went out of business in 1862 following the failure
14 of its Pony Express business from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the stockyards and Hereford breeders began the American Royal
17 Livestock and Horse Show in October of 1899 as the National Hereford Show, the first
18 nationwide show for the exposition and sale of purebred cattle. In 1907, the first American
19 Royal Horse Show was added and now includes five different shows, known as the Quarter
20 Horse Show, the Hunter-Jumper Horse Show, the Arabian Horse Show, the Youth Horse
21 Show, and the Cutting Horse Show. The American Royal is an annual eight-week season of

22 barbecue competitions, rodeos, livestock shows, equestrian events, and agricultural activities
23 benefitting youth and education; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, in 1926, the American Royal began inviting vocational agriculture
26 students to judge the livestock shows. During the 1928 American Royal, 33 of the students
27 meeting at the Baltimore Hotel in downtown Kansas City formed the Future Farmers of
28 America. Now, the National FFA Organization has 850,823 members; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, the cowboy archetype transcends gender, generations, ethnicity,
31 geographic boundaries, and political affiliations; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, and
34 determination; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, the cowboy vaquero spirit exemplifies patriotism and strength of
37 character and is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, the core values expressed within the Cowboy Code of Conduct continue
40 to inspire the pursuit of the highest caliber of personal integrity; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, cowboy and ranching traditions have been part of the American
43 landscape and culture since 1523, and today's cowboys continue to strive to preserve and
44 perpetuate this unique element of America's heritage; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, membership and participation in the National Day of the Cowboy
47 Organization and other organizations that encompass the livelihood of the cowboy continue to
48 expand both nationally and internationally; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, the cowboy and his horse are a central figure in literature, art, film,
51 poetry, photography, and music; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, the cowboy is a true American icon occupying a central place in the
54 public's imagination:

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56 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
57 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session, the

58 Senate concurring therein, hereby designate the fourth Saturday in July each year as "National
59 Day of the Cowboy" in Missouri; and

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61 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the General Assembly recommends
62 to the citizens to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

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64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
65 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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