



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2213		DATE: 4/15/2026	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tourism			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/15/2026 6:43 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill is simple on its face. It designates a commemorative day. But the policy question is not about this one designation—it is about what follows, and where these recognitions belong.

When the legislature creates a statutory day of recognition without a clear standard, it establishes a precedent with no limiting principle. Every historical figure, every cause, and every constituency can make a valid case for equal recognition. Over time, that leads to an expanding list of designations without consistency or restraint.

That creates two problems.

First, it turns statute into a collection of symbolic recognitions rather than a focused body of law. Statute is meant to govern. It is where we place enforceable rules, operational frameworks, and binding policy. When symbolic designations are placed alongside those functions, it blurs that purpose.

Second, it creates inconsistency. Without defined criteria, recognition becomes selective. Some figures are elevated through statute, while others—equally significant—are not. That invites repeated proposals and ongoing pressure to expand the list, with no clear standard for inclusion.

There is also a structural issue of placement.

Commemorative recognition already has a mechanism—executive proclamation.

That process allows the state to honor individuals and events without permanently embedding symbolic designations into statute.

It preserves flexibility while maintaining the distinction between recognition and law.

Without a standard, and without respecting that distinction, each designation is not a standalone act. It is the opening of a door that cannot easily be closed.

If the intent is recognition, the tool already exists.

The question is whether it belongs in statute at all.

Legislative Notice:

Let the record reflect:

This legislation establishes a statutory designation without defined criteria or limitations for future recognitions.

It contributes to the expansion of symbolic provisions within statute that carry no operational or regulatory function.

It creates precedent for additional commemorative designations without a governing standard.

It addresses a purpose that can be achieved through executive proclamation rather than codification into law.

Statute should govern behavior—proclamations can honor history. If there's no standard for who gets a day, there's no limit to how many days we'll create

For these reasons, I stand in opposition.