

House Concurrent Resolution No. 61

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LOVE.

3600H.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 railhead
5 for shipment to Chicago occurred in 1866, when many Texas ranchers banded together to drive
6 their cattle to the closest point that railroad tracks reached, which at that time was Sedalia,
7 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 Bottoms,
10 west of downtown Kansas City, and flourished until closing in 1991. The stockyards were built
11 around the facilities of the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company, which
12 had outfitted travelers on the Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail following the Kansas River. The
13 company went out of business in 1862 following the failure of its Pony Express business from
14 St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California; and

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

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25 **WHEREAS**, in 1926, the American Royal began inviting vocational agriculture students
26 to judge the livestock shows. During the 1928 American Royal, 33 of the students meeting at the
27 Baltimore Hotel in downtown Kansas City formed the Future Farmers of America. Now, the
28 National FFA Organization has 579,678 members; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, the cowboy archetype transcends gender, generations, ethnicity, geographic
31 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 character
37 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 landscape
43 and culture since 1523, and today's cowboys continue to strive to preserve and perpetuate this
44 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, poetry,
51 photography, and music; and

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

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56 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
57 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
58 concurring therein, hereby designate the fourth Saturday in July each year as "National Day
59 of the Cowboy" in Missouri; and

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61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly recommends to the citizens
62 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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