

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2110

Whereas, for over two centuries, our State and Nation have adhered to the rule of law as the foundation for a safe, free, and just society; and

Whereas, seeking to formally recognize this tradition, President Eisenhower established Law Day in 1958, as "a day of national dedication to the principles of government under the law"; and

Whereas, the United States Congress in 1961 encoded the presidential practice into law, statutorily designating May first as Law Day; and

Whereas, Law Day is a day for all Missourians to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of our country and to recognize the importance of laws and the legal process in contributing to the freedoms in which all Americans share; and

Whereas, in addition, this important occasion asks citizens of the great State of Missouri to focus upon their rights as laid out in the fundamental documents of American democracy, the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution; and

Whereas, the year 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of a milestone in legal history, the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Miranda v. Arizona*, concluding that statements made by a suspect in police custody are generally inadmissible if the suspect has not been made aware of his or her Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights; and

Whereas, in response to this decision, law enforcement personnel throughout the country provide a Miranda warning to suspects in custody apprising them of their right to remain silent, their right to an attorney, and their right to appointed counsel in cases where they cannot afford an attorney; and

Whereas, the criminal justice system still faces many challenges and we must all rededicate ourselves to the great goal of ensuring that it provides fair and equal treatment for all; and

Whereas, promoting public understanding of the roots of our freedom are an important component in the civic education of the citizens of the United States and of the State of Missouri; and

Whereas, the American Bar Association has identified the 2016 Law Day theme as "Miranda: More than Words"; and

Whereas, the Missouri Senate celebrates the importance of Law Day in the State of Missouri; in doing so, we, as citizens, of this great State and this Nation, recommit ourselves to the rule of law and to

upholding the fundamental principles enshrined in our founding documents:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that we, the members of the Missouri Senate of the 98th General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby commemorate May 1, 2016, as Law Day and encourage all Missourians to work for the preservation and strengthening of the rule of law.

Resolution

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