

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1273

To honor Susan B. Anthony by celebrating her legacy on the third Monday
in February.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY (for herself and Mr. ARCURI) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To honor Susan B. Anthony by celebrating her legacy on
the third Monday in February.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Susan B. Anthony
5 Birthday Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Susan Brownell Anthony created the first
9 women’s movement in the United States and led
10 that movement for more than 50 years.

1 (2) Born in South Adams, Massachusetts, on
2 February 15, 1820, Susan B. Anthony met Eliza-
3 beth Cady Stanton in 1851 and attended her first
4 women’s rights convention in Syracuse in 1852,
5 where she joined the fight to get women the right to
6 vote, arguing that “the right women needed above
7 every other . . . was the right of suffrage”.

8 (3) The first proposal for women’s suffrage was
9 presented to Congress in 1868.

10 (4) Susan B. Anthony appeared before every
11 Congress from 1869 to 1906 to ask for passage of
12 a suffrage amendment.

13 (5) Susan B. Anthony served as the president
14 of the National Woman Suffrage Association from
15 1892 until 1900.

16 (6) Designated then as the 16th amendment,
17 the first formal women’s suffrage amendment to the
18 Constitution of the United States was introduced in
19 January 1878 and stated, “The right of citizens to
20 vote shall not be abridged by the United States or
21 by any State on account of sex.” This same amend-
22 ment was introduced in every session of Congress for
23 the next 41 years.

1 (7) Before her death on March 13, 1906, Susan
2 B. Anthony’s last public words were “Failure is im-
3 possible.”.

4 (8) On May 21, 1919, the House of Represent-
5 atives passed the 19th amendment, and 2 weeks
6 later, the Senate followed.

7 (9) On August 18, 1920, when Tennessee be-
8 came the 36th State to ratify the amendment, the
9 amendment passed its final hurdle of obtaining the
10 agreement of three-fourths of the states. Secretary
11 of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification
12 on August 26, 1920.

13 (10) The text of the 19th amendment is: “The
14 right of citizens of the United States to vote shall
15 not be denied or abridged by the United States or
16 by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have
17 power to enforce this article by appropriate legisla-
18 tion.”.

19 (11) In 1921, a marble statue of Susan B. An-
20 thony and her women’s rights colleagues, Lucretia
21 Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was dedicated in
22 the United States Capitol.

23 (12) Susan B. Anthony’s picture has appeared
24 on two postage stamps, the 3-cent purple stamp

1 issued in 1936 and the 50-cent deeper purple stamp
2 issued in 1955.

3 (13) Susan B. Anthony's home in Rochester,
4 New York, has been a National Historic Landmark
5 since 1966.

6 (14) In 1979, Susan B. Anthony was honored
7 by having her image placed on a dollar coin.

8 (15) No Federal holiday celebrates the birthday
9 of a woman.

10 **SEC. 3. CELEBRATING SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S LEGACY ON**
11 **THE THIRD MONDAY IN FEBRUARY.**

12 Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is
13 amended by striking "the third Monday in February" and
14 inserting "the third Monday in February, on which day
15 the Nation shall also celebrate the legacy of Susan B. An-
16 thony".

○