

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 15

## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES GARDNER (Sponsor), KIRKTON, MORGAN, MONTECILLO,  
HUMMEL, HUBBARD, MCNEIL, NEWMAN, DUNN, PIERSON, PACE,  
ELLINGER AND MCMANUS (Co-sponsors).

5295L.011

2       **WHEREAS**, Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary,  
3 politician, activist, lawyer, and philanthropist whose life and accomplishments made him a  
4 global icon; and

5       **WHEREAS**, born Rolihlahla Mandela on July 18, 1918, into the Madiba clan in Mvezo,  
6 Transkei, Mandela was given the name Nelson by a primary school teacher in Qunu in  
7 accordance with the custom of giving all school children "Christian" names; and

8  
9       **WHEREAS**, his father was chief of the village and a member of the royal family of the  
10 Thembu tribe. As a boy, Mandela grew up in the company of tribal elders and chiefs, which  
11 gave him a rich sense of African self-government and heritage, despite the cruel treatment of  
12 blacks in white-governed South Africa; and

13  
14       **WHEREAS**, the young Mandela dreamed of making his own contribution to the freedom  
15 struggle of his people after hearing the elder's stories of his ancestors' valor during the wars of  
16 resistance; and

17  
18       **WHEREAS**, in 1944, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC), a  
19 South African political party which had the primary goal of improving conditions and rights for  
20 people of color in South Africa; and

21  
22       **WHEREAS**, Mandela became one of the ANC's younger and more radical leaders as a  
23 member and president of the ANC's Youth League. While trying to destroy apartheid peacefully,  
24 Mandela began to feel that nonviolent resistance would not change conditions in the end; and

25  
26       **WHEREAS**, in 1952, Mandela's leadership of ANC protest activities led to a nine-month  
27 jail sentence of hard labor. Later, in 1956, he was arrested with other ANC leaders for promoting

28 resistance to South Africa's "pass laws" that prevented blacks from moving freely in the country;  
29 and

30

31 **WHEREAS**, following his arrest, Mandela was charged and tried for treason, a marathon  
32 trial that only ended when the last 28 accused, including Mandela, were acquitted on March 29,  
33 1961. By this time, however, the South African government had outlawed the ANC; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, after the banning of the ANC in 1960, Nelson Mandela argued for the  
36 setting up of a military wing within the ANC. In January 1962, Mandela secretly left South  
37 Africa to gain support for the armed struggle and receive military training. After his return to  
38 South Africa in July 1962, he was arrested in a police roadblock and charged with leaving the  
39 country illegally and inciting workers to strike. He was convicted and sentenced to five years'  
40 imprisonment; and

41

42 **WHEREAS**, in 1963, Nelson Mandela and many leaders of the ANC stood trial for high  
43 treason for plotting to overthrow the government by violence in what became known as the  
44 Rivonia Trial. While facing the death penalty, Mandela's April 1964 "Speech from the Dock"  
45 became immortalized:

46

47 "I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black  
48 domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which  
49 all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal  
50 which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which  
51 I am prepared to die."; and

52

53 **WHEREAS**, in June 1964, Nelson Mandela was convicted and sentenced to life  
54 imprisonment. During his twenty-seven years in prison, his example of quiet suffering was just  
55 one of many reasons his reputation grew steadily and he became widely accepted as the most  
56 significant black leader of South Africa; and

57

58 **WHEREAS**, refusing to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom, Nelson  
59 Mandela rejected at least three conditional offers of release throughout his imprisonment; and

60

61 **WHEREAS**, on February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, nine days  
62 after the unbanning of the ANC. After his release, Mandela immersed himself wholeheartedly  
63 into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades  
64 earlier and receiving joyful welcomes wherever he went around the world; and

65

66 **WHEREAS**, the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 was awarded jointly to Nelson Mandela and  
67 Frederik Willem de Klerk "for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime,  
68 and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa". During his acceptance  
69 speech, Mandela said:

70 "We stand here today as nothing more than a representative of the millions of our  
71 people who dared to rise up against a social system whose very essence is war,  
72 violence, racism, oppression, repression and the impoverishment of an entire  
73 people."; and

74

75 **WHEREAS**, on April 27, 1994, Nelson Mandela voted for the first time in his life and  
76 in the first free elections open to all South African citizens. Mandela was elected president with  
77 over 62% of the popular vote; and

78

79 **WHEREAS**, on May 10, 1994, Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first  
80 democratically elected President. In 1999 and true to his word, Mandela stepped down after one  
81 term as president. After leaving office, Mandela quickly accepted the role of statesman, in  
82 addition to his work with the Nelson Mandela's Children's Fund and establishing the Nelson  
83 Mandela Foundation and The Mandela Rhodes Foundation; and

84

85 **WHEREAS**, Nelson Mandela died in his home in Johannesburg on December 5, 2013.  
86 Mandela never wavered in his devotion to democracy, equality, and learning. Despite terrible  
87 provocation, he never answered racism with racism; and

88

89 **WHEREAS**, Nelson Mandela's life is an inspiration to all who are oppressed and  
90 deprived, and to all who are opposed to oppression and deprivation:

91

92 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
93 Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
94 concurring therein, hereby recognize July 18, 2014, as "Nelson Mandela Day of Recognition"  
95 in Missouri in honor of the accomplishments and legacy of Nelson Mandela, a South African  
96 anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, activist, lawyer, and philanthropist who remained  
97 resolute in his fight against oppression and unjust laws in South Africa and around the world;  
98 and

99

100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly recommends to the citizens  
101 of this state to observe the day with appropriate activities and events in honor of and out of  
102 respect for Nelson Mandela, who, in his own words, "cherished the ideal of a democratic and free  
103 society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities".

✓