

House Concurrent Resolution No. 78

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER.

4291H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to the designation of the Nelson Mandela Day of Recognition in Missouri.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

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

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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

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

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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

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

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

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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:

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

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

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

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

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

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93 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of
94 Representatives of the Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
95 concurring therein, hereby designate July 18th each year as "Nelson Mandela Day of
96 Recognition" in Missouri in honor of the accomplishments and legacy of Nelson Mandela, a

97 South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, activist, lawyer, and philanthropist who
98 remained resolute in his fight against oppression and unjust laws in South Africa and around the
99 world; and

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

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106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
107 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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