

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on _____

Date _____ 20 _____

Reported _____ 20 _____

As Committed-Amended

Recommendation _____

By Hon. _____

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the delivery of the
2 Gettysburg Address by President Abraham Lincoln.

3 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg
4 Address on November 19, 1863, officially dedicating the
5 Soldiers' National Cemetery on the grounds where the Battle of
6 Gettysburg took place; and

7 WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of
8 the Civil War with 23,000 Union casualties and 28,000
9 Confederate casualties; and

10 WHEREAS, The Battle of Gettysburg turned the Civil War in the
11 Union's favor; and

12 WHEREAS, Approximately 15,000 people gathered to hear
13 President Lincoln's "dedicatory remarks" and famed orator Edward
14 Everett's "oration"; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Everett eloquently spoke for two hours, but
16 President Lincoln's speech lasted for approximately two minutes;
17 and

1 WHEREAS, However, in his 272 word speech, President Lincoln
2 captured the very essence of the meaning of the Battle of
3 Gettysburg and the Civil War as a whole; and

4 WHEREAS, Beginning with the iconic phrase "Four score and
5 seven years ago," which referred to the Declaration of
6 Independence, President Lincoln examined the founding principles
7 of the United States in the context of the Civil War; and

8 WHEREAS, For the first time in American history, focus was
9 placed on the Declaration of Independence, as opposed to the
10 Constitution, as evidence of the founders' intent; and

11 WHEREAS, The Gettysburg Address memorialized the sacrifices
12 of those who gave their lives at Gettysburg and extolled virtues
13 of America's representative democracy for the listeners to
14 ensure that "government of the people, by the people, for the
15 people, shall not perish from the earth"; and

16 WHEREAS, In the Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln
17 redefined the Civil War as a struggle not just for the
18 preservation of the Union, but also for the principle of human
19 equality; and

20 WHEREAS, The Gettysburg Address continues to guide the
21 overarching principles of American government today; therefore
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
24 150th anniversary of the delivery of the Gettysburg Address by
25 President Abraham Lincoln.