

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND COMMEMORATING AND RECOGNIZING THE  
130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the 130th anniversary of the unveiling of the Statue of Liberty will take place on October 28, 2016; and

WHEREAS, it is an excellent opportunity for all Americans to remember her history and meaning to the United States of America and to the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1865, upon the conclusion of the Civil War ending slavery in the United States, Edouard de Laboulaye, a French historian and admirer of American democracy, was inspired to propose a generous gift from France to the United States in the form of a statue representing liberty; and

WHEREAS, the sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was commissioned for the project. Bartholdi and Laboulaye agreed that their monument should not be seen as instigating an uprising but rather as lighting the way with her torch to democracy, peacefully and lawfully. They named the statue "Liberty Enlightening the World"; and

WHEREAS, in 1877, President Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill designating Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor as the intended site for the statue; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 1886, ten years after the centennial celebration of the United States, the statue was at last unveiled at a dedication ceremony on Bedloe's Island, and one million New Yorkers braved wet and foggy weather that day to throw the first ever ticker-tape parade in New York City, where President Grover Cleveland welcomed her, saying, "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected"; and

WHEREAS, the Statue of Liberty still stands proudly today, having been designated a National Monument by President Calvin Coolidge in 1924, and placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933; and

WHEREAS, over the course of her 130-year history, the Statue of Liberty has welcomed more than twelve million immigrants to American shores and is visited by millions of admirers from all corners of the earth each year; and

WHEREAS, the millions of people who passed through New York Harbor under the watchful eyes of the Statue of Liberty were important to America for their contribution in making the United States of America the world leader it is today; and

WHEREAS, the American poet Emma Lazarus wrote about the Statue of Liberty and America's dream in her inspirational sonnet "The New Colossus," which was inscribed on a bronze plaque and hung inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send

1 these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden  
2 door!"; and

3 WHEREAS, the Statue of Liberty is a symbol to the world of the dreams and  
4 aspirations which have drawn so many millions of immigrants to America; and

5 WHEREAS, to all Americans the Statue of Liberty stands eternal as the  
6 symbol of the freedom which has been made a living reality in the United  
7 States for men and women of all races, creeds and national origins who have  
8 united in allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and to the im-  
9 perishable ideals of our free society.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
11 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
12 the Senate concurring therein, that we do honor and commemorate the history  
13 of the Statue of Liberty and urge all Idahoans to recognize and celebrate the  
14 symbol of freedom and democracy which she represents to all of the world.