

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RESOLVING THAT THE LEGISLATURE FOR-
3 MALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE LOSS OF ALL OF IDAHO'S FALLEN MINERS, THEIR FAM-
4 ILIES, AND THE MEMBERS OF MINE RESCUE AND RESOLVING THAT MAY 2 OF EV-
5 ERY YEAR FROM 2022 FORWARD SHALL BE KNOWN IN IDAHO AS "MINERS' MEMORIAL
6 DAY."

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

8 WHEREAS, mining in Idaho predates the state's acceptance into the
9 United States, and the abundance of minerals brought many to this great state
10 and caused the establishment of many of its communities; and

11 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has often recognized the importance of
12 mining in Idaho; and

13 WHEREAS, prior legislatures felt so strongly about the importance of
14 mining and natural resources that they placed a miner prominently on the
15 Great Seal of the State of Idaho and nicknamed the state "The Gem State"; and

16 WHEREAS, the miners have been called upon by the United States govern-
17 ment in times of war to produce the raw materials needed to strategically de-
18 fend the country; and

19 WHEREAS, for over a century, miners have ensured that all Idahoans and
20 Americans have the means to enjoy a modern lifestyle in every manner; and

21 WHEREAS, miners in early Idaho worked in untrammelled and hazardous en-
22 vironments; and

23 WHEREAS, on May 2, 1972, a great fire broke out in the Sunshine Mine in
24 the Silver Valley, tragically taking the lives of 91 miners; and

25 WHEREAS, through this tragic event, the industry has combined innova-
26 tion with institutional knowledge to greatly reduce hazards to assure miners
27 return home safely at shift's end; and

28 WHEREAS, innovation in health and safety standards continues to make
29 hardrock and surface mining one of the safest industrial professions in
30 Idaho; and

31 WHEREAS, every year on May 2, those who were affected gather from all
32 over the world to remember these 91 miners, the mine rescue teams who worked
33 tirelessly to rescue and recover the miners, those who have passed at area
34 mines since 1972, and the families and community members; and

35 WHEREAS, May 2, 2022, will mark the 50th anniversary of the Sunshine
36 Mine disaster.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
38 sion of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
39 the Senate concurring therein, that we formally acknowledge the loss of all
40 of Idaho's fallen miners, their families, and the members of mine rescue.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that May 2 of every year from 2022 forward shall
42 be known in Idaho as "Miners' Memorial Day."