

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 386

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the text of the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence was signed by most of the delegates in the Second Continental Congress on August 2, 1776;

Whereas August 2, 2008, marks the 232d anniversary of the signing of the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas the signing of the Declaration of Independence marked the formal dissolution of the ties of the thirteen American colonies with Great Britain, the beginning of their statehood and national identity, and the dawning of a new era of freedom in America and the world;

Whereas these Founding Fathers, relying on the direction from and protection of Divine Providence, pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their Sacred honor in defense of this action;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence paved the way for the birth of the Republic;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence has become part of the national culture, and its principles are part of the consciousness of all Americans;

Whereas the fundamental genius of the United States is embodied in the Declaration's recognition that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness";

Whereas the principle that the rights of man are bestowed by the Creator and are unalienable was derived from Scripture, which antedates the existence from any government;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence affirms that governments are instituted to protect those rights; and

Whereas the Declaration acknowledged these self-evident Truths, which constituted one of the most revolutionary philosophical developments in history and began an unparalleled national experiment: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress recognizes and celebrates
3 the 232d anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of
4 Independence.

 Passed the House of Representatives September 24
(legislative day September 23), 2008.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Recognizing and celebrating the 232nd anniversary
of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.