Public Law 94-322
94th Congress

Joint Resolution

To authorize and request the President to establish a "National Bicentennial Highway Safety Year".

June 30, 1976
[H.J. Res. 726]

Whereas 1976 will mark the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of our Nation; and

Whereas the President of the United States has called for the Bicentennial celebration to be an occasion for redefining and rededicating ourselves to our common purposes; and

Whereas a central and unifying theme for the Nation's two hundredth commemoration is improving the quality of life in America; and

Whereas the carnage on our highways each year exacts an appalling toll in lives, injuries, and national treasure; and

Whereas the two million Americans who have died on the Nation's highways since the beginning of the automobile age far exceed the combined totals of all the fatalities suffered in all the wars that this country has fought since its founding; and

Whereas hundreds of millions of Americans—men, women, and children—are planning to see and participate in Bicentennial activities; and

Whereas twenty million visitors from abroad are expected to travel to this country in order to join in our Bicentennial celebration; and

Whereas the overwhelming majority of those participating in Bicentennial related activities will travel on the Nation's roadways; and

Whereas emphasis on highway safety during our Nation's two hundredth anniversary is absolutely essential to assure that 1976 does not become a year of unparalleled carnage and slaughter; and

Whereas the Congress of the United States has provided the legislative mandate and the financial means for substantially reducing highway accidents, injuries, and fatalities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is hereby authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating the twelve-month period commencing with the calendar month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act as the "National Bicentennial Highway Safety Year" and call upon all Americans, in all walks of life, in both the public and private sectors, to participate in programs and activities conducted in connection with such year: Be it further

National Bicentennial Highway Safety Year. Designation authorization.

Resolved, That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) each month of the National Bicentennial Highway Safety Year shall focus on a specific area of activity which offers the prospect of achieving substantial reductions in accidents, injuries, and fatalities on our Nation's highways during the Nation's Bicentennial celebration and in succeeding years, as follows:

(A) January—Safety Education;
(B) February—Safer Bridges;
(C) March—Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety;
(D) April—Pavement Marking and Delineation;
(E) May—Highway Hazard Removal;
(F) June—Safety Belts and Child Restraints;
(G) July—Safer Driving;

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(H) August—Roadside Obstacle Elimination;
(I) September—Save Our Children;
(J) October—Signs and Signals;
(K) November—Railroad Crossing Protection; and
(L) December—Alcohol and Problem Drinkers; and

(2) the projects and programs of the National Bicentennial Highway Safety Year shall be formulated so as to involve individuals, groups, and public and private sector organizations where they live, where they work, where they travel, and where they operate in order that the lifesaving aims, goals, and priorities of the National Bicentennial Highway Safety Year may be vigorously pursued and fully realized; and be it further

Resolved, That the lives saved and injuries prevented through this national effort shall symbolize the rededication of the American people to living and working together in a spirit of mutual cooperation, harmony, dignity, and respect in order to achieve better, healthier, happier lives for all.

Approved June 30, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-980 (Comm. on Post Office and Civil Service).
SENATE REPORT No. 94-946 (Comm. on the Judiciary).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):
Apr. 5, considered and passed House.
June 16, considered and passed Senate.