Public Law 97-188
97th Congress

Joint Resolution

June 1, 1982
[S.J. Res. 59]

Designating the square dance as the national folk dance of the United States.

Whereas square dancing has been a popular tradition in America since early colonial days;
Whereas square dancing has attained a revered status as part of the folklore of this country;
Whereas square dancing is a joyful expression of the vibrant spirit of the people of the United States;
Whereas the American people value the display of etiquette among men and women which is a major element of square dancing;
Whereas square dancing is a traditional form of family recreation which symbolizes a basic strength of this country, namely, the unity of the family;
Whereas square dancing epitomizes democracy because it dissolves arbitrary social distinctions; and
Whereas it is fitting that the square dance be added to the array of symbols of our national character and pride: Now, therefore, be it

National folk dance, designation.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the square dance is designated the national folk dance of the United States of America for 1982 and 1983.

Approved June 1, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 59:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:
Vol. 127 (1981): Sept. 23, considered and passed Senate.
Vol. 128 (1982): May 11, considered and passed House, amended.
May 19, Senate concurred in House amendment.

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