

By Representative Andrews

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House Resolution

A resolution declaring December 15, 2000, Bill  
of Rights Day.

WHEREAS, the first 10 amendments to the United States  
Constitution are referred to as the Bill of Rights, which  
limit and define the powers of government, and

WHEREAS, several of the original states refused to  
ratify the Constitution without an express Bill of Rights, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights recognizes, affirms, and  
protects fundamental human and civil rights for which persons  
of all races have struggled for thousands of years, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights secures our freedom to  
speak, print, read, assemble, pray, petition the government,  
and keep and bear arms; protects us from unreasonable arrests  
and searches, excessive bail, double jeopardy, coerced  
confessions, and cruel and unusual punishment; and secures our  
rights to due process, jury trials, and counsel, and to  
present defense witnesses, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights protects our sovereign  
state from the excesses of the Federal Government, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights is integral to the American  
way of life, and America celebrates a variety of civic  
holidays which remind us of the special contributions and  
sacrifices made by our forefathers and leaders to preserve,  
protect, and extend our freedoms, and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights energizes our military  
defense because members of the Armed Services of the United  
States swear an oath to preserve and defend the United States  
Constitution, which includes the Bill of Rights, and when  
American military personnel fight and die for our country,

1 they do so to protect our rights and freedoms under the Bill  
2 of Rights, and

3           WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would help prevent the  
4 Bill of Rights from being otherwise forgotten, and since many  
5 Americans do not know the Bill of Rights, this special day  
6 would encourage our schools to instruct children about this  
7 aspect of our American heritage, and

8           WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would declare America's  
9 commitment to fundamental human rights to the whole world, and

10           WHEREAS, just as celebrating religious holidays reminds  
11 Americans of our religious beliefs and traditions, a Bill of  
12 Rights Day would remind Americans of the manner in which our  
13 history and philosophy have secured the rights for which  
14 oppressed people everywhere still yearn, and

15           WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would be a memorial day  
16 honoring the personal sacrifices and deaths of countless  
17 millions of people who have struggled for basic human and  
18 civil rights over thousands of years, and

19           WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would remind all elected  
20 and appointed officials and employees of the state and local  
21 executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government  
22 that their authority and powers are limited, and

23           WHEREAS, a Bill of Rights Day would remind all members  
24 of government that they serve the citizens, not rule them, and  
25 that the citizens always hold the right to restrain  
26 government, and

27           WHEREAS, the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Bill  
28 of Rights deserve perennial celebrations and the sacrifices  
29 made to protect the Bill of Rights deserve eternal  
30 remembrance, and

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1           WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights of the United States  
2 Constitution was ratified on December 15, 1791, NOW,  
3 THEREFORE,  
4  
5 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
6 Florida:

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8           That December 15, 2000, be declared Bill of Rights Day  
9 in Florida.

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all governmental bodies in  
11 Florida be encouraged to observe the Bill of Rights Day in a  
12 manner that brings to mind the meaning and importance of each  
13 of the 10 provisions contained therein.  
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