



## 2022 South Dakota Legislature

# House Concurrent Resolution 6013

Introduced by: **Representative** Randolph

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Celebrating American heroes.**

2 WHEREAS, America celebrates numerous commemorative months, including Black History  
3 Month, Women’s History Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Hispanic American Heritage  
4 Month, Native American Heritage Month, and others; and

5 WHEREAS, these months, when considered together, demonstrate the great and  
6 exceptional diversity of America from its earliest days up through the present; and

7 WHEREAS, many of the heroes and stories displaying America’s rich diversity have been  
8 forgotten, removed, or ignored in recent years, despite the fact that the history books from  
9 previous generations made significant mention of these figures; and

10 WHEREAS, there are many historic individuals, accomplishments, and facts that should be  
11 restored to the knowledge of Americans; and

12 WHEREAS, the American War for Independence is one of the many excellent examples of  
13 the great diversity, largely unknown today, that caused America to be the unique and  
14 remarkable nation she has become; and

15 WHEREAS, early America truly was a melting pot, and the American War for Independence  
16 joined hundreds of thousands of Americans from many ethnicities and backgrounds together  
17 in that effort, illustrated by the fact that of George Washington’s 76 generals, 28 were foreign-  
18 born, and included those from Poland, Lithuania, France, Prussia, Germany, Scotland, Ireland,  
19 Hungary, Holland, and many other nations; and

20 WHEREAS, virtually every battle in that War had integrated, non-segregated units, with  
21 black soldiers voluntarily serving an average of nine times longer than white soldiers; and

1        WHEREAS, Founding Father John Adams said that the pivotal moment leading to the  
2 American War for Independence was the shedding of the first blood at King Street, during  
3 which black patriot leader Crispus Attucks was killed by the British in the Boston Massacre;  
4 and

5        WHEREAS, that War came to a successful close at the Battle of Yorktown largely because  
6 of the intelligence work of black American James Armistead Lafayette, the first double spy in  
7 American history; and

8        WHEREAS, since the American War for Independence began with the death of a black  
9 patriot and ended with the intelligence work of another black patriot, both of whom often get  
10 excluded from the narratives of revisionist historians, any story of that War that does not  
11 include the contributions of black Americans is not a complete portrayal of America or its  
12 history; and

13        WHEREAS, scores of other black leaders and heroes in that War known by previous  
14 generations included Jack Sisson, Prince Whipple, Peter Salem, Salem Poor, Lemuel Haynes,  
15 Richard Allen, Prince Estabrook, Jordan Freeman, Oliver Cromwell, Brister Baker, Billy Flora,  
16 and scores of others; and

17        WHEREAS, numerous Hispanics were also crucial in winning America's independence,  
18 including Juan Miralles, Bernardo de Galvez, Francisco Saavedra, all of whom raised funds  
19 and provided military assistance for Washington, and others; and

20        WHEREAS, the contributions of Jewish Americans were equally important, including those  
21 of Isaac Franks, Benjamin Nones, Haym Salomon, Isaac Moses, David Franks, Mordecai  
22 Sheftell, and many more; and

23        WHEREAS, Francis Salvador, a Sephardic Jewish American, was the first Jewish American  
24 to be elected to a state legislature and the first Jewish soldier to die in the American War for  
25 Independence; and

26        WHEREAS, the contributions of Native Americans to the cause of American independence  
27 were similarly crucial, including those of the tribes of the Passamaquoddy, St. John's,  
28 Penobscot, Oneidas, Tuscaroras, and the Stockbridge Indian militias; and

29        WHEREAS, the contributions of women were likewise invaluable, including those of ladies  
30 such as Margaret "Captain Molly" Corbin, Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Lewis, Sybil Ludington,

1 Mercy Otis Warren, Mary "Sergeant Molly" Hays, Lydia Darrah, Mary Katherine Goddard, Anna  
2 Strong, Nancy Bates, Ann Hart, and many more; and

3 WHEREAS, the contributions of white people of English descent were similarly inestimable,  
4 including those of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin,  
5 James Madison, Benjamin Rush, Roger Sherman, John Jay, and scores of others; and

6 WHEREAS, the same pattern of diverse contributions and achievement is reflected not  
7 only in achieving America's status as an independent nation but also in various domestic  
8 contributions as well, including in medicine, business, science, religion, education, military,  
9 government, and numerous other fields—that is, each is heavily populated with incredible  
10 contributions from Americans that were Anglo, Black, Hispanic, Jewish, Asian, men, women,  
11 youth, and also from other demographic areas within American life; and

12 WHEREAS, America has certainly failed from time-to-time to live up to the values it  
13 professes, as has every other nation and people in the world; but

14 WHEREAS, despite our periodic failures, America has far surpassed every other nation in  
15 the world in its successes, achievements, and progress in racial relations and cooperation:

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-  
17 Seventh Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that we  
18 reject any revisionist approach to American history and culture that excludes the incredible  
19 stories of our diverse forebears; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge a return to earlier stories of inclusiveness and  
21 cooperation in American history whereby merit is determined by one's individual character  
22 and actions rather than identification with any particular ethnicity, gender, or sub-group; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand firmly behind the belief articulated in our  
24 Founding documents that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created  
25 equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among  
26 these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."