



2022 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6013

HOUSE ENGROSSED

*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; and

21 WHEREAS, Founding Father John Adams said that the pivotal moment leading to the
 22 American War for Independence was the shedding of the first blood at King Street, during

1 which black patriot leader Crispus Attucks was killed by the British in the Boston Massacre,
2 and that War came to a successful close at the Battle of Yorktown largely because of the
3 intelligence work of black American James Armistead Lafayette, the first double spy in
4 American history; and

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

9 WHEREAS, numerous Hispanics were also crucial in winning America's independence,
10 including Juan Miralles, Bernardo de Galvez, Francisco Saavedra, and Cuban women known
11 as the "Ladies of Havana" who raised funds for Washington, and others; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, the contributions of women were likewise invaluable, including those of ladies
22 such as Margaret "Captain Molly" Corbin, Abigail Adams, Elizabeth Lewis, Sybil Ludington,
23 Mercy Otis Warren, Mary "Sergeant Molly" Hays, Lydia Darrah, Mary Katherine Goddard, Anna
24 Strong, Nancy Bates, Ann Hart, and many more; and

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

28 WHEREAS, the same pattern of diverse contributions and achievement is reflected not
29 only in achieving America's status as an independent nation but also in various domestic
30 contributions as well, including in medicine, business, science, religion, education, military,

1 government, and numerous other fields—that is, each is heavily populated with incredible
2 contributions from Americans that were Anglo, Black, Hispanic, Jewish, Asian, men, women,
3 youth, and also from other demographic areas within American life; and

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

6 WHEREAS, despite our periodic failures, America has far surpassed every other nation in
7 the world in its successes, achievements, and progress in racial relations and cooperation;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, any story of that War that does not include the contributions of all Americans
10 is not a complete portrayal of America or its history:

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

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

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