

# *Ceremonies and Awards*

## § 1. Scope

This chapter presents a broad sampling of the types of celebrations, ceremonies, and awards in which the House participates.<sup>(1)</sup> Ceremonies concerned with joint sessions of Congress to receive Presidential messages, such as the state of the Union address, are included in the chapter on Presidential communications.<sup>(2)</sup> Joint sessions to count the electoral vote are detailed elsewhere.<sup>(3)</sup> Although this chapter does include examples of memorial services for various individuals, the reader is encouraged to consult the chapter on Death for a complete discussion on the House procedure for ceremonies related to the death of individuals.<sup>(4)</sup> Receptions at the White House, pa-

1. The reader is encouraged to consult Ch. 24, *supra*, generally. For information on the ban on commemorative bills, see Rule XII clause 5, *House Rules and Manual* § 823 (2007); and *House Practice* Ch. 6 § 23 (2003). For information on the ban on naming public works after sitting Members, see Rule XXI clause 6, *House Rules and Manual* § 1068a (2007). See also § 22.6, *infra*.
2. See Ch. 35, *supra*.
3. See Ch. 10, *supra*.
4. See Ch. 38, *infra*.

rades, balls, and the like, are not included here. For a detailed examination of the uses of the House facilities and Capitol grounds, the reader is referred elsewhere.<sup>(5)</sup>

## § 2. Commemorative Occasions

The House has marked a number of important national anniversaries and notable events with ceremonies and observations. Among these have been ceremonies commemorating events in American history, such as the anniversaries of the Constitution<sup>(1)</sup> and the First Congress;<sup>(2)</sup> commemorations marking historically significant dates of other nations;<sup>(3)</sup> observances of a religious nature;<sup>(4)</sup> observances of Pan American Day and Flag Day;<sup>(5)</sup> and ceremonies commemorating Presidents.<sup>(6)</sup>

On two occasions Congress has engaged in ceremonial functions

5. See Ch. 4, *supra*.
1. See § 4.5, *infra*.
2. See §§ 4.1–4.4, *infra*.
3. See § 5, *infra*.
4. See § 6, *infra*.
5. See §§ 7 and 8, *infra*.
6. See § 9, *infra*.

outside the seat of government to mark significant events in the Nation's history. The first occurred in 1987, when it participated in a ceremony in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to commemorate the bicentennial of the Constitution;<sup>(7)</sup> the second occurred in 2002 when it held a ceremonial meeting in Federal Hall in New York to mark the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.<sup>(8)</sup>

The 104th Congress added a prohibition against commemorative legislation within the House rules.<sup>(9)</sup> The rule prohibits the introduction of any bill or resolution or amendment if it establishes a commemoration. The rule defines a commemoration as a "remembrance, celebration, or recognition for any purpose through the designation of a specified period of time."

This prohibition, does not apply to measures that do not specify a specific date in the resolving clause.<sup>(10)</sup> For example, a resolution may declare in its resolving clause support for the goals and ideas of such a commemoration.<sup>(11)</sup>

7. See § 4.5, *infra*.

8. See § 16.4, *infra*.

9. Rule XII clause 5, *House Rules and Manual* §823 (2007). Prior to the 106th Congress, this rule was found under former clause 2(b) of Rule XXII.

10. See §§ 2.1, *infra*.

11. *Id.*

The ban on commemoratives was waived in 2001 for the designation of Patriot Day.<sup>(12)</sup>

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**§ 2.1 Form of resolution, averring in its preamble the meaning of a specified week of celebration, and declaring in its resolving clause support for the goals and ideas of such a week; and containing a request that the President proclaim that the people should celebrate those goals and ideas, without specifying a date for such celebrations or otherwise "designating a specified period of time" within the meaning of Rule XII clause 5<sup>(1)</sup> (proscribing "commemoratives").**

On Sept. 22, 1999,<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Doug Ose, of California, asked for unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 293. The proceedings were as follows:

12. See §§ 3.1, 3.2, *infra*.

1. *House Rules and Manual* §823 (2007).

2. 146 CONG. REC. 22269, 22270, 22273, 106th Cong., 1st Sess.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 293), expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week,” and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.<sup>(3)</sup> Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. [Elijah] CUMMINGS [of Maryland]. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, under my reservation, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) to explain the bill . . .

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 293

Whereas there are 105 historically black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas black colleges and universities provide the quality education so essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in American history;

Whereas black colleges and universities have allowed many under-

privileged students to attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition; and

Whereas Senate Resolution 178 would designate the week beginning September 19, 1999, as “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week”: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved,*

The the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideas of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically black colleges and universities in the United States.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

*Parliamentarian’s Note:* It was important that the identification of the week beginning Sept. 19, 1999, was confined to the preamble.

§ 3. —Federal Holidays

Holidays are a subject within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.<sup>(1)</sup> They were formerly within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service,

1. Rule X clause 1(m)(5), *House Rules and Manual* § 732 (2007).

3. John Cooksey (LA).