

Rep. Kelly offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 63.

A resolution to declare March 16, 2013, as Liberty Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Our rights and liberties are rooted in the cherished documents that gave birth to our nation, those being the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, We will forever be grateful to the many people who played prominent roles in the birth of our nation, both large and small, and too numerous to fully name but including: Abigail Adams, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Ethan Allen, Margaret "Molly" Corbin, Benjamin Franklin, Elizabeth Freeman, Nathan Hale, Alexander Hamilton, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, John Paul Jones, James Armistead Lafayette, Sybil Ludington, Thomas Paine, Paul Revere, Caesar Rodney, Deborah Samson Ganet, George Washington, and Phillis Wheatley, to name just a few and without dishonor to the many other patriots we are indebted to both known and unknown; and

Whereas James Madison, fourth President of the United States, was born on March 16, 1751, and is widely known as the "Father of the Bill of Rights". He was one of the authors of the Federalist Papers, outlining why states should endorse the new Constitution, and introduced the Bill of Rights into the first Congress of the United States whereupon the first ten amendments to the Constitution were adopted; and

Whereas, It is incumbent that we recognize the importance of these founding documents and also teach our children of the sacrifices previous generations have made in order that we have and keep the liberties and freedoms we enjoy today. So as to be forever mindful and vigilant, it is altogether fitting that the birthdate for the "Father of the Bill of Rights" will be used to mark the occasion of this celebration of Liberty Day in the great state of Michigan; and

Whereas, The people of Michigan can commemorate this day by learning firsthand or teaching unto others the contents of these documents, as well as the stories of those who contributed to them and their now enshrined principles; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 16, 2013, as Liberty Day in the state of Michigan.