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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1008

101 **CONCERNING HONORING THE LIFE OF MAHATMA GANDHI.**

1   WHEREAS, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi--later known as
2 Mahatma, which means "great soul"--was born October 2, 1869, in
3 Porbandar, located in the present-day Indian state of Gujarat; and

4   WHEREAS, As a young man, Gandhi went to London to study
5 law at the Inner Temple and returned to India in 1891, and he set up a law
6 practice in Bombay; and

7   WHEREAS, In 1893, Gandhi accepted a job that took him to
8 South Africa, where he spent the next twenty years; and

9   WHEREAS, Not long after arriving in South Africa, Gandhi was
10 traveling by train with a first-class ticket but was asked to move to
11 third-class because he was Indian. When he refused, he was thrown off

1   the train; and

2   WHEREAS, Gandhi would later describe the train incident as a
3   turning point when he decided to fight injustice and defend his rights as
4   an Indian, and he soon began developing and practicing the concept of
5   satyagraha, or passive resistance; and

6   WHEREAS, Gandhi spent the next twenty years in South Africa
7   fighting racial segregation, including practicing noncooperation with
8   relevant authorities in the wake of required registration for all Indians;
9   and

10   WHEREAS, Upon his return to India, Gandhi spread his message
11   of nonviolent civil disobedience through noncooperation and peaceful
12   protests aimed at achieving independence from the British; and

13   WHEREAS, One of Gandhi's most famous protests began on
14   March 12, 1930, when he led a 241-mile march to the Arabian Sea in
15   response to a British tax on salt, which became known as the Salt March;
16   and

17   WHEREAS, Over the years, Gandhi led and encouraged acts of
18   peaceful, passive resistance, including hunger strikes, labor strikes,
19   nonviolent marches, and other forms of civil disobedience; and

20   WHEREAS, Besides independence from British rule, Gandhi
21   sought to overcome the Hindu-Muslim disunity in India and fought
22   against the Hindu tradition of the caste system that led to discrimination
23   against those born to the lowest social class; and

24   WHEREAS, Gandhi was jailed many times as a result of his
25   protests, but he always spoke for peace and forgiveness and believed in
26   a single unified India; and

27   WHEREAS, India was granted its independence from Britain in
28   1947, though internal tensions remained; and

29   WHEREAS, On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated while
30   on his way to a prayer meeting; and

31   WHEREAS, Gandhi left behind a legacy of peace, nonviolence,
32   and acceptance of others in his efforts for justice, unity, and freedom;

1   now, therefore,

2   *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth*
3   *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

4   That we honor the life of Mahatma Gandhi, who dedicated his life
5   to fighting injustices with nonviolence and peaceful resistance.

6   *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
7   to the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi; the
8   Honorable Indian Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Arun Singh; the
9   Honorable Consul General of India in Houston, Mr. P. Harish; Mr. Manu
10   Raval of the Gandhi Group of Colorado; and Dr. Ved Nanda, Hindu
11   Swayamsevak Sangh.