

**2019 SENATE AGRICULTURE**

**SCR 4003**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SCR 4003  
1/17/2019  
30974 (22:09)

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Meghan Pegel

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A concurrent resolution declaring the fourth Saturday in July as “National Day of the Cowboy”.

## **Minutes:**

1 Attachment

**Chairman Luick** opened the hearing on SCR 4003. All members were present.

### **Senator Dale Patten, District 39, testifies in favor**

**Senator Patten:** This would designate fourth Saturday in July as a national day of the cowboy, a country-wide effort. I have not heard any opposition to this and would encourage a do pass.

**Chairman Luick:** Does it also include cowgirls?

**Senator Patten:** Absolutely. It is more of a historical term rather than gender.

**Senator Klein:** Why is it the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in July?

**Senator Patten:** I do not have that information.

### **(3:15) Mary Graner, Mandan farmer and rancher**

**Graner:** I'm testifying to clarify the date. It's always been observed on that day; it's just never been officially, nationally in writing.

**Senator O. Larsen:** Also in July is nude recreation week, creative ice cream flowers day, compliment your mirror day, sidewalk egg frying day and international kissing day, etc.

**(5:30) Chairman Luick adjourned the hearing on SCR 4003.**

**See Attachment #1 for testimony support of SCR 4003.**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SCR 4003  
1/24/2019  
30974 (5:55-22:09)

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Dan Johnston II/ Meghan Pegel
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution declaring the fourth Saturday in July as "National Day of the Cowboy".

## Minutes:

1 Attachment
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**(5:55) Chairman Luick** opens discussion on SCR 4003.

## **Bethany Braley, Executive Director of the National Day of the Cowboy Organization, testifies in favor (see attachment #1)**

**Braley:** I want to give a little history behind the National Day of the Cowboy. We have been working since 2005 to establish the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in July as a day to celebrate our cowboy culture and our pioneer heritage. In that time, we've gotten 12 states who have passed it into law so far: Wyoming, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Oregon, Mississippi, Kansas, Virginia, Texas, Idaho and Indiana; all have passed it in perpetuity. Our goal is to get it in all 50 States, so we are hoping that this year we get North Dakota, Missouri and Tennessee.

The SCR describes some of the cultural, social and historical significance of our cowboy and pioneer heritage. While it does not address the economic impact, the cowboy culture has a huge economic impact with the cowboy boot industry, the cowboy hat industry, horse trailers, stock contractors, pro rodeo, working ranch rodeo, team roping, Western life style publications, livestock stores, western clothing industry, western literature, cowboy poetry, western movies, etc. If we could add all of that up, we would know that the cowboy culture and the preservation of our pioneer heritage contributes a huge amount to the whole economy of America, not just the western states as some people think.

The National Day of the Cowboy is even celebrated around the world including Italy, Canada and Great Britain; the cowboy culture is a point of community for the whole world. It builds local communities too. There are over 100 events that take place every year now from coast to coast. There are many museums throughout the nation. Some let visitors ride a quarter horse, so for people who've never ridden a horse before, this is a really big deal. There is also a National Day of the Cowboy flag. It flies in 36 states, and we have the National Day of the Cowboy flag that flew to the International Space Station aboard the Discovery

space shuttle. It flew five million seven hundred thousand miles, and even the Washington Post wrote about it.

On my way out here last night, I looked up some of the cowboy things in North Dakota, and I see that the headline on your tourism guide is “Experience Your Inner Cowboy in North Dakota”. Clearly, cowboy culture and heritage are economic factors in North Dakota including places such as: North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, Medora Musical, The Theodore Roosevelt National Park, The Trail of Louie Lamour, The North Dakota Stockmen’s Association, The Frontier Village, The World’s Largest Buffalo Monument, The North Dakota Heritage Center, The Trading Post. I also see that you have numerous rodeos, powwows, historic sites and a huge ranching industry. So I am here to support this bill because I feel like it is important to America; it builds communities and it helps us pass on that heritage using education at many of the events. I hope that the North Dakota Legislature will pass this bill.

**(13:30) Vice Chair Myrdal:** Thank you for coming so far. I would like to concur that the cowboy culture does have notable economic impact in North Dakota. Speaking from experience, horse trailers generate a lot of revenue. It has been a huge subculture for my daughter to grow up in with the quarter horse industry. I commend you for pushing this.

**Senator O. Larsen:** What state is not happy with the National Day of the Cowboy folks?

**Braley:** In all my travels, I have only encountered two objections to the bill. One was from a Native American in Arizona who thought there should be a National Day of Native American before the Cowboy, which there is a National Day of Native Americans- it’s the day after Thanksgiving. She just didn’t know that. The only other objection was someone who objected on the grounds that the National Day of the Cowboy is about rodeos, and he wanted to change it to the National Day of Ranching Heritage. He turned out to be a person who makes stuff up and goes to legislatures for that reason.

**(17:15) Rick Thompson, Executive Director of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame**

**Thompson:** It is very easy for me to lend my support to this bill because that is what we do on a daily basis; we make sure that western heritage is not lost. I think that the purpose of this is to make sure that this history and legacy remains with us. We exist in large part at the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame to teach current and future generations about the role played by the cowboys in the formation of the state’s cattle industry as well as rodeos. Tough terrain and the brutal winters paired with the passion and dedication of the North Dakota cowboy have made us a state to be reckoned with in producing top notch livestock as well as very competitive rodeo cowboys. Despite the small population of this state, it’s known for producing an impressive number of both cowboy and cowgirl champions that help keep ND on the map. North Dakota is one of a declining number of states that continue to have a strong cowboy culture. This should be proudly celebrated by the leaders and citizens of this state and in addition lifted up by organizations such as the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame. We support the passage of this bill.

**Senator O. Larsen:** When did your organization start, and are you connected with the Cowboy Poets group in Medora?

**Thompson:** We began in 1995 and built a facility in Medora in 2005. The Cowboy Poets are under our umbrella as far as their promotion, but they are a separate entity. The cowboy poetry in Medora is always over Memorial weekend.

**Vice Chair Myrdal: Moves a Do Pass.**

**Senator Klein: Seconds.**

**A Roll Call was taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent. Motion carries.**

**Vice Chair Myrdal will carry the SCR.**

**2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4003**

Senate Agriculture \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Vice Chair Myrdal    Seconded By Senator Klein

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Luick- Chairman	X		Senator Hogan	X	
Senator Myrdal- Vice Chair	X				
Senator Klein	X				
Senator Larsen	X				
Senator Osland	X				

Total    (Yes) 6    No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Vice Chair Myrdal

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4003: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Luick, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4003 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2019 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**SCR 4003**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4003  
3/21/2019  
Job #34150

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: ReMae Kuehn
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## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A resolution declaring the fourth Saturday in July as "National Day of the Cowboy"

## **Minutes:**

Attachments # 1 & 2
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**Senator Patten, Co-Sponsor:** Introduced the bill.

**Rick Thomson, Executive Director of North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame:**  
(Attachment #1)

The "National Day of the Cowboy" is based in Oklahoma. It began in the state of Wyoming. The cowboy legacy and the history is what the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame is all about. We teach current and future generations about the role of cowboys in the cattle industry and rodeo legacy. When you look back at our rodeo cowboys and girls there are a lot of champions. (Listed noted rodeo champions)

North Dakota is one a declining number of states with a strong cowboy culture. There are only 13 states that recognize the National Day of the Cowboy. I would love to include the state of North Dakota to make it 14 states.

**Julie Ellingson, North Dakota Stockmens' Association:** (Attachment #2)  
Supports the resolution.

**Opposition:** None

**Chairman Dennis Johnson:** Closed the hearing

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4003—Committee Work  
3/28/2019  
Job #34313

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: ReMae Kuehn
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**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

A resolution declaring the fourth Saturday in July as "National Day of the Cowboy"

**Minutes:**

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**Representative Schreiber-Beck:** Moved Do Pass

**Representative Fisher:** Seconded the motion

**A Roll Call vote was taken: Yes   14  , No   0  , Absent   0  .**

**Do Pass** carries and place on the Consent Calendar.

**Representative Schreiber Beck** will carry the bill.

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4003**

House **Agriculture** Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendation**

- Adopt Amendment
- Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation
- As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations
- Place on Consent Calendar

**Other Actions:**     Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Schreiber Beck    Seconded By Rep. Fisher

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Dennis Johnson	X		Rep. Ruth Buffalo	X	
Vice Chairman Wayne Trottier	X		Rep. Gretchen Dobervich	X	
Rep. Jake Blum	X				
Rep. Jay Fisher	X				
Rep. Craig Headland	X				
Rep. Dwight Kiefert	X				
Rep. Aaron McWilliams	X				
Rep. David Richter	X				
Rep. Bernie Satrom	X				
Rep. Cynthia Schreiber Beck	X				
Rep. Kathy Skroch	X				
Rep. Bill Tveit	X				

**Total**    **Yes**    14    **No**    0

**Absent**    0

Floor Assignment    Representative Schreiber Beck

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4003: Agriculture Committee (Rep. D. Johnson, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4003 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**SCR 4003**

# 1  
SCR 4003  
1.17.19

**North Dakota Stockmen's Association**  
**Testimony to the Senate Agriculture Committee on SCR 4003**  
**Jan. 17, 2019**

Good morning, Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture Committee members. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, comprised of more than 3,000 North Dakota cowboys and cowgirls. I am also one of those mamas who didn't listen to Waylon Jennings' advice and am proud to be watching my five babies grow up to be cowboys!

The Stockmen's Association stands in support of SCR 4003, which would declare the fourth Saturday of July as the National Day of the Cowboy. These folks are stewards of the land and the livestock, embody the spirit of the West and play an integral role in our state's economy and in feeding and clothing the world.

Just like Willy Nelson, our heroes have always been cowboys, and we look forward to celebrating their contributions in July with the passage of this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

## NDOC Projects & Goals

1. Secure permanent passage of the National Day of the Cowboy bill in all fifty states.
2. Encourage educational outreach focused on the Cowboy's contribution to America's history and culture, while teaching about the Cowboys' current role in the fabric of American society and business.
3. Organize an NDOC celebration on The Mall in Washington, D.C.
4. Promote display of the NDOC flag throughout America and around the world.
5. Build worldwide community and partnerships among those who support and enjoy preservation of pioneer heritage and Cowboy culture.
6. Work to protect America's cattle ranches, prairies, and horse trails from extinction.
7. Promote reading and writing of western literature and cowboy poetry through *Read Em Cowboy*®.
8. Establish a National Day of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Heritage Museum.
9. Recognize those who make a significant contribution to the preservation of cowboy culture and pioneer heritage through our annual *Cowboy Keeper Awards*®.
10. Promote adoption and application of the Cowboy Code of Conduct by the general public.

## Become a Supporting Member Today

Help us establish this special day for all who cherish this culture and heritage. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit we are mandated to rely upon donors, sponsors, fundraisers and memberships to fund this work. Our success depends upon your financial support and involvement. We cannot maintain this effort without YOU. We offer several supporting membership levels, with an individual membership at just \$20. Please visit our website membership section to join us today.

We are a certified MissionFish charity, so you may donate a percentage of any item you buy or sell on eBay. You may also select us as your charity when you buy through *Amazon Smile*, then Amazon donates to us each time you make a purchase. When holding an NDOC celebration, or other cowboy related events, consider us as one of your charitable recipients. Become a supporting member, contribute financially, donate items or vehicles, or volunteer to help today.

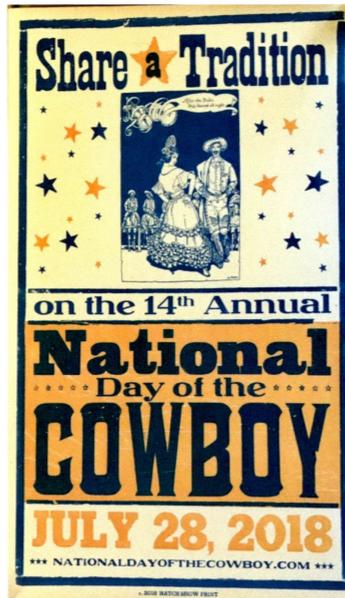
## NDOC Mission Statement

The National Day of the Cowboy nonprofit organization works to contribute to the preservation of America's cowboy culture and pioneer heritage, so that the history and culture which the National Day of the Cowboy bill honors, can be shared and perpetuated for the public good, through education, celebrations, the arts, literature, gatherings, rodeos, and other community activities.

## NDOC Bill Status

A National Day of the Cowboy resolution has **never** been awarded permanent status by the U.S. Congress nor by any President. Therefore, we work continuously to secure a permanent designation for the fourth Saturday in July as the *National Day of the Cowboy* in state legislatures. In 2012, Wyoming and California made history as the first and second states to award permanent status to the NDOC bill. Since 2012, our bill has also passed in perpetuity, in NM, AZ, OK, OR, MS, KS, VA, TX, ID and IN. "National Day of the Cowboy" is our bill's official title. It is the only title we promote.

1st National Day of the Cowboy July 23, 2005  
**15th Annual National Day of the Cowboy**  
July 27, 2019



The Desert Cowboys in Iraq

## National Day of the Cowboy Bill

Expressing support for the designation of the fourth Saturday in July as "National Day of the Cowboy".

### BILL

Whereas pioneering men and women, known as cowboys, helped establish America's frontiers;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends gender, generations, ethnicity, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, and determination;



Whereas the cowboy Vaquero spirit exemplifies patriotism and strength of character;

Whereas the cowboy is an excellent steward of the land, its resources, and its creatures;

Whereas the core values expressed in the Cowboy Code of Conduct inspire the pursuit of the highest caliber of personal integrity;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been part of the American landscape and culture since 1523, and today's cowboys and cowgirls continue to strive to preserve and perpetuate this unique element of America's heritage;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of approximately 734,000 ranches in all 50 States,

Whereas annual attendance at rodeos exceeds 30,000,000 fans worldwide,

Whereas membership and participation in the National Day of the Cowboy Organization, Cowboy Fast Draw, Working Ranch Rodeo Association, Cowboy Mounted Shooting, American Quarter Horse Association, Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association, Championship Bull Riding, Women's Pro Rodeo, American Cattlemen's Association, United States Team Roping Champions, Western Music Association and other organizations that encompass the livelihood of the cowboy, continues to expand nationally and internationally;

Whereas the cowboy and his horse, are a central figure in literature, art, film, poetry, photography, and music, and

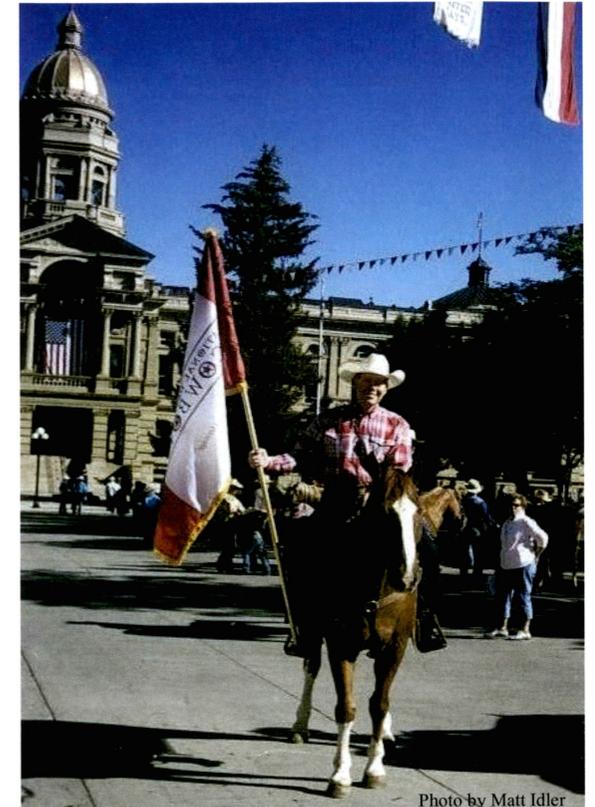
Whereas the cowboy is a true American icon occupying a central place in the public's imagination;

Now therefore, be it Resolved, that the House of Representatives and the Senate

- (1) express support for the designation of a "National Day of the Cowboy"; and
- (2) encourage the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

# NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

## Celebrate the Fourth Saturday in July



U.S. Senator Craig Thomas carrying the National Day of the Cowboy flag. Cheyenne Frontier Days NDOC July 22, 2006. Photo by Matt Idler

## National Day of the Cowboy 501c3

1212 NE Linden Ave #57  
Gresham OR 97030

[nationaldayofthecowboy.com](http://nationaldayofthecowboy.com)  
[info@nationaldayofthecowboy.com](mailto:info@nationaldayofthecowboy.com)

Facebook/National Day of the Cowboy  
Bethany Braley, Executive Director & Publisher  
928-759-0951

#1 pg1 SCR 4003 1-24-19

### Day of the Cowboy History

First sponsored as a resolution in the U.S. Senate in 2005-07, by Wyoming's late U.S. Senator, Craig Thomas, we now seek to secure permanent passage for the 4th Saturday in July to be recognized as a day to celebrate cowboy and cowgirl culture and pioneer heritage, in all fifty states.

In March 2012, Wyoming made history as the first state to pass the NDOC bill, into law, **in perpetuity**. California followed in June, also **in perpetuity**. In 2013, NM, AZ, OK, OR and MS became the 3rd-7th states to pass our NDOC bill. In 2014, KS took the #8 slot. VA and TX joined the growing list of states at #9 and #10 on the list, in 2015. In March 2016, the Idaho State Legislature voted to make Idaho the eleventh state to award permanent status. On Valentine's Day, 2017, the Indiana State Legislature passed the NDOC bill, making Indiana the twelfth state to officially recognize the 4th Saturday in July as the National Day of the Cowboy.

Volunteers have also achieved passage as a resolution in a number of other states, including AL, KY, MO, NY, IL, FL, and AR, but our goal remains to see it passed as a bill in the remaining 38 states.



Photo by Bert Entwistle

In 2008 and 2009, the NDOC resolution also passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, sponsored by AZ Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

### National Day of the Cowboy Organization

The National Day of the Cowboy organization incorporated in Wyoming in June 2005, receiving IRS non-profit designation in December, 2005. We work nationally and internationally to increase awareness for the National Day of the Cowboy bill and to secure its permanent passage. We created the "Read Em Cowboy" project to engage young people in this preservation effort. We publicize news and information about our ongoing crusade, so participation in celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy grows each year, and so future generations remain aware of the Cowboy and Cowgirl's contribution to America's rich pioneer heritage.

### History of America's Cowboy

Ponce de Leon brought horses and Andalusian cattle (ancestors of Texas Longhorns) to Florida from Spain, in 1521, making Florida America's oldest cattle raising state. Despite cattle fever, snakes, storms, swamps, and ticks, there were dozens of ranches along the Florida Panhandle and the St. Johns River before 1700. By the 1800s, the Seminole Nation possessed extensive herds of cattle and most Florida settlers raised beef for food. Railroads soon reached into Florida and, since trains could ship cattle, the Florida beef industry grew, becoming a chief supplier of meat and leather to the Confederacy during the Civil War.



The Vaqueros of Mexico brought their cowboy culture to the Texans. When the Mexicans departed Texas in 1848, they left thousands of cattle and horses behind at a time when there was no market for beef in Texas. Soldiers who returned to Texas after the civil war came back to land which had no assets to speak of, other than several million longhorn cattle roaming untended. At the same time, a market for beef developed in the East. A scrawny longhorn, which could be rounded up or purchased for two dollars in Texas, brought thirty dollars or more when delivered to the distant market, so thousands of longhorns were gathered up and driven in herds by the "Cowboys" to railhead shipping points like Abilene, Kansas, Ogallala, Nebraska, and Fort Worth, Texas.



Photo by Charles Phillips

In the words of one U.S. President;

"We celebrate the Cowboy as a symbol of the grand history of the American West. The Cowboy's love of the land and love of the country are examples for all Americans."

### Cowboy Culture

There are approximately 734,000 beef cattle ranches in the U.S., contributing to the economy of virtually every county in the country. In 2004, cash receipts from livestock and livestock products were expected to total 98.3 billion dollars. One dollar in American cattle sales generates approximately \$5 in additional business activity to America's economy.

Membership in cowboy related organizations transcends geographic boundaries, gender, political affiliations, ethnicity, and all generations. Cowboy festivals and gatherings abound in communities East and West. Western themed publications number in the thousands, with subscribers, websites, newsstand and association sales numbering in the millions.



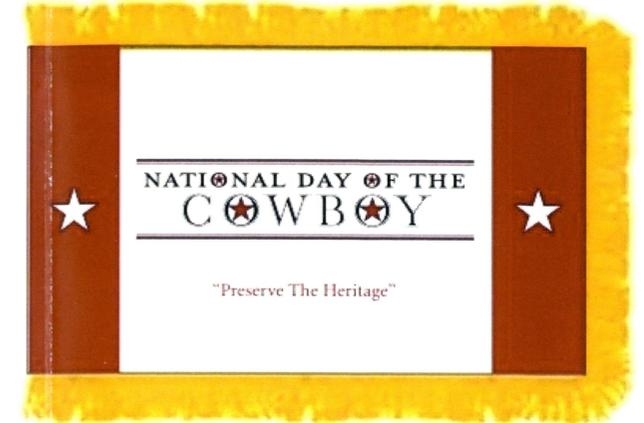
Rodeo is the 7th most watched sport in America. The life and folklore of the Cowboy continues to be idealized and celebrated in its own unique genre of music, film, literature, poetry, sport, photography, TV, art, dress and recreation. The Cowboy and Cowgirl can lay claim to America's only authentic folk costume. America's Cowboy is recognized the world over as an icon, representing honesty, hard work, integrity, and tenacity. The cowboy is a legendary and heroic figure whose image passed from reality into myth years ago.

### NDOC Cowboy Code of Conduct© For Cowboys & Cowgirls

There are many versions of the "Cowboy Code of Conduct," a cowboy's personal guidepost for living with integrity. This is the National Day of the Cowboy Code of Conduct for Cowboys & Cowgirls.

1. Live each day with honesty and courage.
2. Take pride in your work. Always do your best.
3. Stay curious. Study hard and learn all you can.
4. Do what has to be done and finish what you start.
5. Be tough, but fair.
6. When you make a promise, keep it.
7. Be clean in thought, word, deed, and dress.
8. Practice tolerance and understanding of others.
9. Be willing to stand up for what's right.
10. Be an excellent steward of the land and animals.

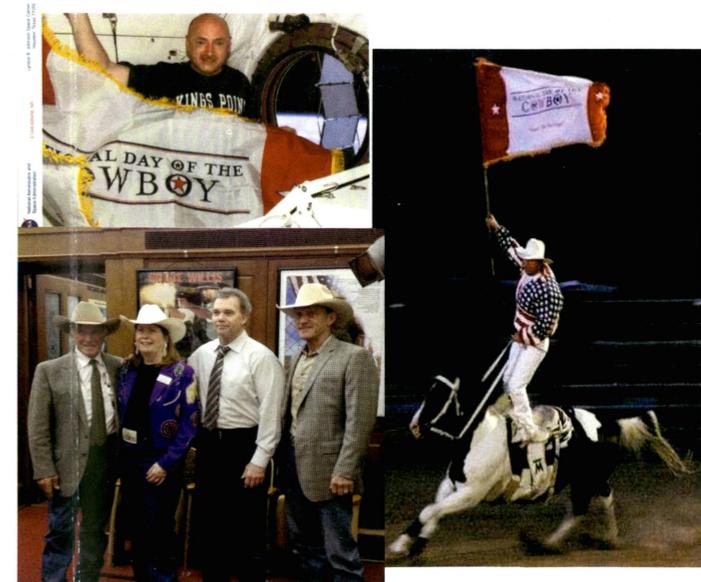
## NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY



### National Day of the Cowboy Flag

The sparkling white National Day of the Cowboy flag measures 3 'X 5'. It is screen printed with the National Day of the Cowboy logo and "Preserve the Heritage." We ask all who support preservation of pioneer heritage and Cowboy culture to fly this flag as a sign of unity and a symbol of support for Cowboys and Cowgirls. The National Cowboy flag, fringed or grommet, is always **Made in the USA**.

To purchase an NDOC fringed or grommet flag, email [orders@nationaldayofthecowboy.com](mailto:orders@nationaldayofthecowboy.com)



## NDOC Projects & Goals

1. Secure permanent passage of the National Day of the Cowboy bill in all fifty states.
2. Encourage educational outreach focused on the Cowboy's contribution to America's history and culture, while teaching about the Cowboys' current role in the fabric of American society and business.
3. Organize an NDOC celebration on The Mall in Washington, D.C.
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10. Promote adoption and application of the Cowboy Code of Conduct by the general public.

## Become a Supporting Member Today

Help us establish this special day for all who cherish this culture and heritage. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit we are mandated to rely upon donors, sponsors, fundraisers and memberships to fund this work. Our success depends upon your financial support and involvement. We cannot maintain this effort without YOU. We offer several supporting membership levels, with an individual membership at just \$20. Please visit our website membership section to join us today.

We are a certified MissionFish charity, so you may donate a percentage of any item you buy or sell on eBay. You may also select us as your charity when you buy through *Amazon Smile*, then Amazon donates to us each time you make a purchase. When holding an NDOC celebration, or other cowboy related events, consider us as one of your charitable recipients. Become a supporting member, contribute financially, donate items or vehicles, or volunteer to help today.

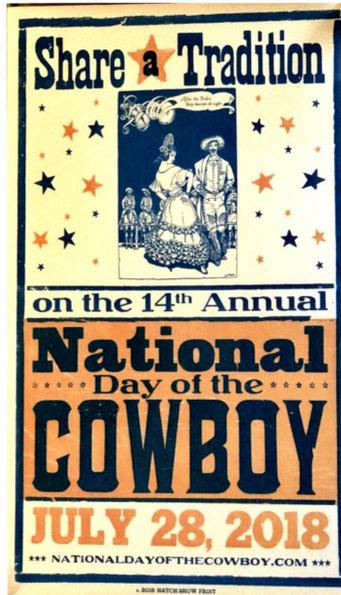
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## NDOC Bill Status

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1st National Day of the Cowboy July 23, 2005  
**15th Annual National Day of the Cowboy**  
**July 27, 2019**



The Desert Cowboys in Iraq

## National Day of the Cowboy Bill

Expressing support for the designation of the fourth Saturday in July as "National Day of the Cowboy".

### BILL

Whereas pioneering men and women, known as cowboys, helped establish America's frontiers;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends gender, generations, ethnicity, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, and determination;



Whereas the cowboy Vaquero spirit exemplifies patriotism and strength of character;

Whereas the cowboy is an excellent steward of the land, its resources, and its creatures;

Whereas the core values expressed in the Cowboy Code of Conduct inspire the pursuit of the highest caliber of personal integrity;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been part of the American landscape and culture since 1523, and today's cowboys and cowgirls continue to strive to preserve and perpetuate this unique element of America's heritage;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of approximately 734,000 ranches in all 50 States,

Whereas annual attendance at rodeos exceeds 30,000,000 fans worldwide,

Whereas membership and participation in the National Day of the Cowboy Organization, Cowboy Fast Draw, Working Ranch Rodeo Association, Cowboy Mounted Shooting, American Quarter Horse Association, Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association, Championship Bull Riding, Women's Pro Rodeo, American Cattlemen's Association, United States Team Roping Champions, Western Music Association and other organizations that encompass the livelihood of the cowboy, continues to expand nationally and internationally;

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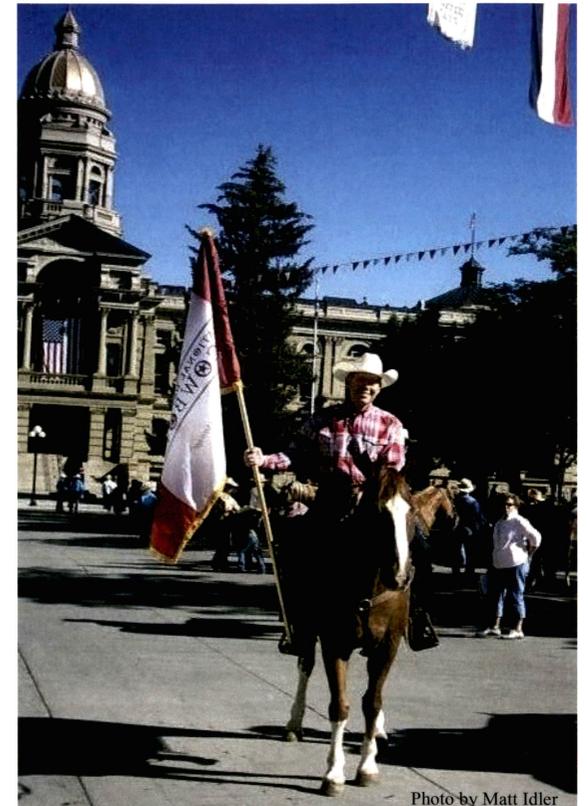
Whereas the cowboy is a true American icon occupying a central place in the public's imagination;

Now therefore, be it Resolved, that the House of Representatives and the Senate

- (1) express support for the designation of a "National Day of the Cowboy"; and
- (2) encourage the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

# NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

## Celebrate the Fourth Saturday in July



U.S. Senator Craig Thomas carrying the National Day of the Cowboy flag. Cheyenne Frontier Days NDOC July 22, 2006.

## National Day of the Cowboy 501c3

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## Day of the Cowboy History

First sponsored by a resolution in the U.S. Senate in 2005-07, by Wyoming's late U.S. Senator, Craig Thomas, we now seek to secure permanent passage for the 4th Saturday in July to be recognized as a day to celebrate cowboy and cowgirl culture and pioneer heritage, in all fifty states.

In March 2012, Wyoming made history as the first state to pass the NDOC bill, into law, **in perpetuity**. California followed in June, also **in perpetuity**. In 2013, NM, AZ, OK, OR and MS became the 3rd-7th states to pass our NDOC bill. In 2014, KS took the #8 slot. VA and TX joined the growing list of states at #9 and #10 on the list, in 2015. In March 2016, the Idaho State Legislature voted to make Idaho the eleventh state to award permanent status. On Valentine's Day, 2017, the Indiana State Legislature passed the NDOC bill, making Indiana the twelfth state to officially recognize the 4th Saturday in July as the National Day of the Cowboy.

Volunteers have also achieved passage as a resolution in a number of other states, including AL, KY, MO, NY, IL, FL, and AR, but our goal remains to see it passed as a bill in the remaining 38 states.



Photo by Bert Entwistle

In 2008 and 2009, the NDOC resolution also passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, sponsored by AZ Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

## National Day of the Cowboy Organization

The National Day of the Cowboy organization incorporated in Wyoming in June 2005, receiving IRS non-profit designation in December, 2005. We work nationally and internationally to increase awareness for the National Day of the Cowboy bill and to secure its permanent passage. We created the "Read Em Cowboy" project to engage young people in this preservation effort. We publicize news and information about our ongoing crusade, so participation in celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy grows each year, and so future generations remain aware of the Cowboy and Cowgirl's contribution to America's rich pioneer heritage.

## History of American Cowboy

Ponce de Leon brought horses and Andalusian cattle (ancestors of Texas Longhorns) to Florida from Spain, in 1521, making Florida America's oldest cattle raising state. Despite cattle fever, snakes, storms, swamps, and ticks, there were dozens of ranches along the Florida Panhandle and the St. Johns River before 1700. By the 1800s, the Seminole Nation possessed extensive herds of cattle and most Florida settlers raised beef for food. Railroads soon reached into Florida and, since trains could ship cattle, the Florida beef industry grew, becoming a chief supplier of meat and leather to the Confederacy during the Civil War.



The Vaqueros of Mexico brought their cowboy culture to the Texans. When the Mexicans departed Texas in 1848, they left thousands of cattle and horses behind at a time when there was no market for beef in Texas. Soldiers who returned to Texas after the civil war came back to land which had no assets to speak of, other than several million longhorn cattle roaming untended. At the same time, a market for beef developed in the East. A scrawny longhorn, which could be rounded up or purchased for two dollars in Texas, brought thirty dollars or more when delivered to the distant market, so thousands of longhorns were gathered up and driven in herds by the "Cowboys" to railhead shipping points like Abilene, Kansas, Ogallala, Nebraska, and Fort Worth, Texas.



Photo by Charles Phillips

"We celebrate the Cowboy as a symbol of the grand history of the American West. The Cowboy's love of the land and love of the country are examples for all Americans."

In the words of one U.S. President;

## Cowboy Culture

There are approximately 734,000 beef cattle ranches in the U.S., contributing to the economy of virtually every county in the country. In 2004, cash receipts from livestock and livestock products were expected to total 98.3 billion dollars. One dollar in American cattle sales generates approximately \$5 in additional business activity to America's economy.

Membership in cowboy related organizations transcends geographic boundaries, gender, political affiliations, ethnicity, and all generations. Cowboy festivals and gatherings abound in communities East and West. Western themed publications number in the thousands, with subscribers, websites, newsstand and association sales numbering in the millions.



Rodeo is the 7th most watched sport in America. The life and folklore of the Cowboy continues to be idealized and celebrated in its own unique genre of music, film, literature, poetry, sport, photography, TV, art, dress and recreation. The Cowboy and Cowgirl can lay claim to America's only authentic folk costume. America's Cowboy is recognized the world over as an icon, representing honesty, hard work, integrity, and tenacity. The cowboy is a legendary and heroic figure whose image passed from reality into myth years ago.

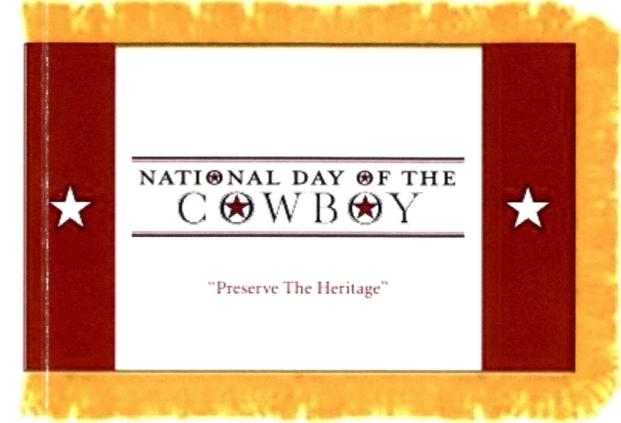
## NDOC Cowboy Code of Conduct© For Cowboys & Cowgirls

There are many versions of the "Cowboy Code of Conduct," a cowboy's personal guidepost for living with integrity. This is the National Day of the Cowboy Code of Conduct for Cowboys & Cowgirls.

1. Live each day with honesty and courage.
2. Take pride in your work. Always do your best.
3. Stay curious. Study hard and learn all you can.
4. Do what has to be done and finish what you start.
5. Be tough, but fair.
6. When you make a promise, keep it.
7. Be clean in thought, word, deed, and dress.
8. Practice tolerance and understanding of others.
9. Be willing to stand up for what's right.
10. Be an excellent steward of the land and animals.

## NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

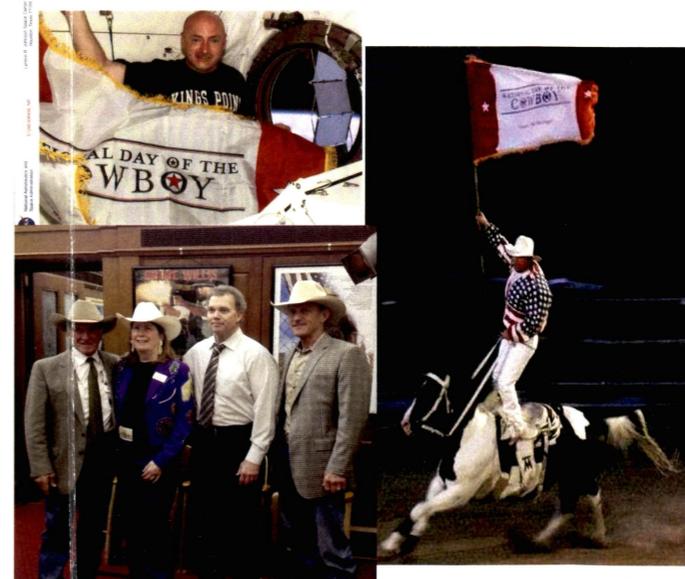
#1 SCR 4003 3/21/19



## National Day of the Cowboy Flag

The sparkling white National Day of the Cowboy flag measures 3' X 5'. It is screen printed with the National Day of the Cowboy logo and "Preserve the Heritage." We ask all who support preservation of pioneer heritage and Cowboy culture to fly this flag as a sign of unity and a symbol of support for Cowboys and Cowgirls. The National Cowboy flag, fringed or grommet, is always **Made in the USA**.

To purchase an NDOC fringed or grommet flag, email [orders@nationaldayofthecowboy.com](mailto:orders@nationaldayofthecowboy.com)



**North Dakota Stockmen's Association**  
**Testimony to the House Agriculture Committee on SCR 4003**  
**March 21, 2019**

Good morning, Chairman Johnson and House Agriculture Committee members. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, comprised of more than 3,000 North Dakota cowboys and cowgirls. I am also one of those mamas who didn't listen to Waylon Jennings' advice and am proud to be watching each of my five babies grow up to be cowboys!

The Stockmen's Association stands in support of SCR 4003, which would declare the fourth Saturday of July as the National Day of the Cowboy. We celebrate them as they embody the spirit of the West, are stewards of the land and the livestock and play an integral role in our state's economy and in feeding and clothing a growing world.

Just like Willy Nelson, our heroes have always been cowboys, and we look forward to celebrating their contributions this July with the passage of this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.