

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

As Engrossed: H3/7/19

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1553

5 By: Representative Penzo
6 By: Senator L. Eads
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY IN
10 ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO CREATE THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY
15 IN ARKANSAS.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 1, Chapter 5, Subchapter 1, is amended
21 to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 1-5-117. National Day of the Cowboy.

23 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

24 (1) Pioneering men and women helped build the nation with their
25 ranches and farms, and livestock and agriculture play a vital role in the
26 economic well-being of Arkansas communities;

27 (2) The quintessential cowboy and cowgirl play a significant
28 role in American culture, and embody integrity, respect, a strong work ethic,
29 and patriotism, known as the cowboy code;

30 (3) The vaquero spirit of competition among ranch cowboys and
31 cowgirls is reflected in rodeo events throughout the state that contribute to
32 tourism and the economy;

33 (4) Many statewide organizations recognize and encourage young
34 cowboys and cowgirls to be excellent stewards of the land and to preserve
35 this foundation of American heritage;

36 (5) Arkansas is the birthplace of cowboy book and film icons,



1 including:

2 (A) Charles Portis, who was born in El Dorado, educated at
3 the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and authored cowboy novel "True
4 Grit";

5 (B) Maxwell Henry Aronson, who was born in Little Rock,
6 became the actor "Bronco Billy" Anderson, and was the first cowboy superstar,
7 starring in over three hundred (300) movies and paving the way for other
8 famous cowboy actors; and

9 (C) Betty Jeanne Grayson, also born in Little Rock, became
10 actress Gail Davis, and inspired young cowgirls as "Annie Oakley" in the
11 1950s television series of the same name; and

12 (6) Many states have declared an annual day to commemorate
13 cowboys.

14 (b) The fourth Saturday in July shall be known as "National Day of the
15 Cowboy" to commemorate America's cowboy heritage.

16 (c) National Day of the Cowboy is not a legal holiday but is a
17 memorial day to be commemorated by the issuance of an appropriate
18 proclamation by the Governor.

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/s/Penzo