

**Second Regular Session**

**Sixty-second General Assembly**

LLS NO. R00-1059.01 Nicole Hoffman

**STATE OF COLORADO**

BY REPRESENTATIVE Dean;  
also SENATOR Hillman

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-1037**

101 MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS THE  
102 ISSUES AND CONCERNS SURROUNDING CONTROVERSIAL STATE  
103 SYMBOLS, CUSTOMS, AND LAWS FAIRLY AND THOROUGHLY AMONG  
104 ALL STATES.

1 WHEREAS, The state of Arkansas seceded from the union in 1861  
2 and flew the Confederate flag during the Civil War; and

3 WHEREAS, The state of Arkansas currently prohibits the display  
4 of any Confederate flag or replica thereof except to honor the  
5 Confederate States of America; and

6 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Arkansas state law, the Saturday  
7 immediately preceding Easter Sunday of each year is designated as  
8 "Confederate Flag Day" in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, The Confederate flag serves as an enduring symbol  
10 of war, secession, slavery, segregation, and racism for some people, while  
11 it is a symbol of honor, independence, and southern heritage for others;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the symbolism of the Confederate  
14 flag, President Clinton, while serving as the Governor of the state of  
15 Arkansas, condoned his state's annual designation of a day to honor the  
16 Confederate flag; and

17 WHEREAS, The state of Tennessee also seceded from the union  
18 in 1861; and

19 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Tennessee state law, each year the  
20 Governor of the state has the duty to proclaim certain days of special  
21 observance, including "Nathan Bedford Forrest Day" on July 13; and

22 WHEREAS, In June 1861, Nathan Bedford Forrest, a native  
23 Tennessean who had amassed a fortune as a slave trader and plantation  
24 owner, joined the Confederate army as a private in a cavalry company,

1 ascended in the ranks of the Confederate army, became one of the leading  
2 cavalry figures of the Civil War, and is believed to have massacred a  
3 garrison of African American troops when he captured Fort Pillow in  
4 1864; and

5 WHEREAS, After the Civil War, Nathan Bedford Forrest, with  
6 several other former Confederate army officers, founded and served as  
7 the first leader of the Ku Klux Klan; and

8 WHEREAS, The original members of the Ku Klux Klan sought to  
9 destroy the southern Reconstruction governments that came into power  
10 after the Civil War, believed in the innate inferiority of African  
11 Americans, and tried to prevent former slaves from achieving civil  
12 equality through acts of intimidation and violence; and

13 WHEREAS, From the beginning of the Civil War to the present,  
14 Nathan Bedford Forrest has been a controversial figure among the  
15 citizens of Tennessee, celebrated by some as a Confederate army hero  
16 while condemned by others as a racist and a terrorist; and

17 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the controversy regarding the  
18 loyalties and moral character of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Vice President  
19 Gore, while serving as one of Tennessee's delegates to the United States  
20 Congress, condoned his state's annual designation of a day to honor this  
21 controversial historical figure; and

22 WHEREAS, As proud and patriotic citizens of the United States,  
23 we seek to be a united people and therefore should not commemorate  
24 historical symbols or figures that many people associate with disloyalty,  
25 slavery, discrimination, and racially motivated acts of violence; and

26 WHEREAS, In response to the recent controversy regarding the  
27 Confederate flag that flies over South Carolina's state capitol building,  
28 President Clinton and Vice President Gore both stated that the  
29 Confederate flag should be removed from atop that state's capitol  
30 building; now, therefore,

31 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second*  
32 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*  
33 *herein:*

34 That we, the members of the General Assembly of the state of  
35 Colorado, hereby urge the President and Vice President:

36 1. Not to reprimand a state for commemorating historical symbols  
37 or persons associated with the Confederacy that are thought to represent  
38 inequality, segregation, and oppression, while ignoring and condoning the  
39 commemoration of similar historical symbols or persons in their home  
40 states that could evoke similar criticisms.

41 2. Not to rebuke any decision made by state political leaders to  
42 honor historical symbols or persons commemorative of the Civil War,

1 when each failed to take action with regard to honoring similar symbols  
2 or persons in their home states while they served as political leaders in  
3 those states.

4 3. To urge the eradication of all of the remaining official state  
5 symbols, customs, or laws that revere the ideals of the Confederacy and  
6 slavery in their home states before chastising other states for failing to  
7 eliminate such symbols, customs, or laws.

8 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be  
9 transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the  
10 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of  
11 the United States House of Representatives, to each member of  
12 Colorado's delegation of the United States Congress, to Governor Don  
13 Sundquist of Tennessee, and to Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.