



H.Res. 984 –Expressing support for the designation of July 26, 2008 as "National Day of the Cowboy"

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 984 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) on February 13, 2008. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ordered the resolution to be ordered by voice vote on June 12, 2008.

H.Res. 984 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on July 14, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 984 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Expresses support for the designation of a 'National Day of the Cowboy'; and
- Encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

BACKGROUND

The cowboy is an important figure in the history, literature, film, and music of the American West. Cowboys in the United States still exist today, but date back to the nineteenth century when they primarily herded cattle and performed other ranching roles. There are currently about 727,000 ranchers, or cowboys, working in the U.S. The word "cowboy" is thought to be an English version of the Spanish word *vaquero*, meaning cattle handler.

Rodeo and ranch rodeo events, which incorporate cowboy culture, remain very popular in the United States. Rodeo is the seventh most watched sport in America, and over 27 million fans attend rodeo events each year.

STAFF CONTACT

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