

2023-J641

Senate Resolution No. 641

BY: Senator THOMAS

CELEBRATING Gandhi Jayanti, the day of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's birth, on October 2, 2023

WHEREAS, The true architects of society and community are those extraordinary individuals whose faith and unremitting commitment have served to sustain the spiritual and cultural values of life; Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a civil rights leader who inspired freedom across the world, was undoubtedly such an individual; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, the day of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's birth, on Monday, October 2, 2023; and

WHEREAS, One of three nationally celebrated holidays in India, Gandhi Jayanti marks the birth of the enormously influential life and work of Mohandas Gandhi on India's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, Gandhi Jayanti is marked by prayer services and tributes all over India, including at Gandhi's memorial Raj Ghat in New Delhi where he was cremated; popular celebratory activities include prayer meetings and commemorative ceremonies by colleges, local government institutions and socio-political organizations; and

WHEREAS, The year 2019 marked the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Mohandas Gandhi, which was celebrated by the minting of "150" currency

in his honor, paintings of his face on vehicles, and the commissioning of an art exhibition titled "Picture Postcards of Gandhi"; and

WHEREAS, Gandhi Jayanti is also celebrated by the United Nations, which in a 2007 resolution marked October 2nd as the International Day of Non-Violence; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 2, 1869, Mohandas Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, politician, writer and social activist who helped lead the Indian independence movement; he is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of nonviolent protest, satyagraha, which he used to achieve political and social progress; and

WHEREAS, Within India, Mohandas Gandhi's philosophy lived on in the messages of reformers such as Vinoba Bhave; abroad, Martin Luther King, Jr., borrowed heavily from Gandhi's practice of nonviolence and civil disobedience to achieve social equality; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, and perhaps most impactful of all, the freedom of which Mohandas Gandhi's movement won for India inspired similar movements in Asia and Africa; and

WHEREAS, Mohandas Gandhi died on January 30, 1948; even many decades after his death, his legacy continues in countless ways as organizations and institutions across the globe host numerous festivals and celebrations in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his purposeful journey of life, Mohandas Gandhi compiled, with dignity and kindness, decades filled with gracious literary works, moral causes, and humanitarian efforts, justly earning the devotion of his followers and the admiration and respect of his fellow man; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti, the day of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's birth, on October 2, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India.