

One Hundred Tenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Thursday,
the third day of January, two thousand and eight*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas the Wyoming Territorial Legislature passed, and Governor John A. Campbell signed into law on December 10, 1869, a measure stating, “That every woman of the age of twenty-one years, residing in this territory, may, at every election, to be holden under the law thereof, cast her vote.”;

Whereas this Suffrage Act granted women in the Wyoming Territory the right to vote with full civil and judicial equality to men;

Whereas Louisa Swain, on September 6, 1870, became the Nation’s first woman voter under laws guaranteeing absolute political equality to women;

Whereas she cast that vote as a 70 year-old woman in the town of Laramie’s municipal election;

Whereas, the Laramie Daily Sentinel wrote, “It is comforting to note that our first woman voter was really a lady . . . of the highest social standing in the community, universally beloved and respected. The scene was in the highest degree interesting and impressive. There was too much good sense in our community for any jeers or sneers to be seen on such an occasion”;

Whereas this vote was inspirational to the women’s suffrage movement and to the cause of civil rights;

Whereas, Wyoming’s statehood, in 1890, brought the codification of this suffrage right through the ratification of the new Wyoming State constitution under Article 6, section 1;

Whereas, when the Congress threatened to withhold statehood from Wyoming, territory legislators replied with a telegram stating that Wyoming would remain out of the Union 100 years rather than join without women’s suffrage;

Whereas President Benjamin Harrison, on July 10, 1890, signed into law a bill admitting Wyoming into the Union, and recognizing it as the Nation’s “Equality State”;

Whereas these actions instigated a path to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution 50 years after Louisa Swain’s historical first vote; and

Whereas September 6, 2008, would be an appropriate date to designate as Louisa Swain Day: Now, therefore, be it

H. Con. Res. 378—2

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress supports the designation of a Louisa Swain Day.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.