

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1273

To honor Susan B. Anthony by celebrating her legacy on the third Monday  
in February.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY (for herself and Mr. ARCURI) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## A BILL

To honor Susan B. Anthony by celebrating her legacy on  
the third Monday in February.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Susan B. Anthony  
5 Birthday Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Susan Brownell Anthony created the first  
9 women’s movement in the United States and led  
10 that movement for more than 50 years.

1           (2) Born in South Adams, Massachusetts, on  
2           February 15, 1820, Susan B. Anthony met Eliza-  
3           beth Cady Stanton in 1851 and attended her first  
4           women’s rights convention in Syracuse in 1852,  
5           where she joined the fight to get women the right to  
6           vote, arguing that “the right women needed above  
7           every other . . . was the right of suffrage”.

8           (3) The first proposal for women’s suffrage was  
9           presented to Congress in 1868.

10          (4) Susan B. Anthony appeared before every  
11          Congress from 1869 to 1906 to ask for passage of  
12          a suffrage amendment.

13          (5) Susan B. Anthony served as the president  
14          of the National Woman Suffrage Association from  
15          1892 until 1900.

16          (6) Designated then as the 16th amendment,  
17          the first formal women’s suffrage amendment to the  
18          Constitution of the United States was introduced in  
19          January 1878 and stated, “The right of citizens to  
20          vote shall not be abridged by the United States or  
21          by any State on account of sex.” This same amend-  
22          ment was introduced in every session of Congress for  
23          the next 41 years.

1           (7) Before her death on March 13, 1906, Susan  
2           B. Anthony’s last public words were “Failure is im-  
3           possible.”.

4           (8) On May 21, 1919, the House of Represent-  
5           atives passed the 19th amendment, and 2 weeks  
6           later, the Senate followed.

7           (9) On August 18, 1920, when Tennessee be-  
8           came the 36th State to ratify the amendment, the  
9           amendment passed its final hurdle of obtaining the  
10          agreement of three-fourths of the states. Secretary  
11          of State Bainbridge Colby certified the ratification  
12          on August 26, 1920.

13          (10) The text of the 19th amendment is: “The  
14          right of citizens of the United States to vote shall  
15          not be denied or abridged by the United States or  
16          by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have  
17          power to enforce this article by appropriate legisla-  
18          tion.”.

19          (11) In 1921, a marble statue of Susan B. An-  
20          thony and her women’s rights colleagues, Lucretia  
21          Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was dedicated in  
22          the United States Capitol.

23          (12) Susan B. Anthony’s picture has appeared  
24          on two postage stamps, the 3-cent purple stamp

1 issued in 1936 and the 50-cent deeper purple stamp  
2 issued in 1955.

3 (13) Susan B. Anthony's home in Rochester,  
4 New York, has been a National Historic Landmark  
5 since 1966.

6 (14) In 1979, Susan B. Anthony was honored  
7 by having her image placed on a dollar coin.

8 (15) No Federal holiday celebrates the birthday  
9 of a woman.

10 **SEC. 3. CELEBRATING SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S LEGACY ON**  
11 **THE THIRD MONDAY IN FEBRUARY.**

12 Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is  
13 amended by striking "the third Monday in February" and  
14 inserting "the third Monday in February, on which day  
15 the Nation shall also celebrate the legacy of Susan B. An-  
16 thony".

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