

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 385

Introduced by Smith, 48; Stuthman, 22

WHEREAS, highest commendations are extended to the National Association for Music Education, the Nebraska Music Educators Association, and the First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Laura Bush, for their efforts on behalf of the National Anthem Project; and

WHEREAS, The Star-Spangled Banner was adopted as the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 by an Act of Congress; a Harris Interactive Survey discovered that of men and women eighteen years of age and older, sixty-one percent of those surveyed did not know all the lyrics of the first stanza; of those who answered the question correctly, fifty-eight percent had received at least five years of music education; and an ABC News poll revealed that more than one in three Americans do not know the official name of the National Anthem is The Star-Spangled Banner, less than thirty-five percent of American teens can name Francis Scott Key as the composer of the National Anthem, and as few as fifteen percent of American youth can sing the words to the anthem from memory; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for Music Education and the Nebraska Music Educators Association have taken the lead role in promoting the National Anthem through the National Anthem

Project to help remedy this concern; First Lady Laura Bush has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the National Anthem Project and is lending her support and visibility to this effort; and

WHEREAS, the study of American heritage through music, inspired by important moments in our nation's history, is basic to a complete education and the future of our country and its citizens. Music education ensures that, through the use of songs that teach the history and heritage of the United States, students learn to take pride in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the study of music provides increased opportunities for valuable educational experiences, engages students in individual and group activities, and develops creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska is concerned with maintaining and improving high quality school music programs for all students and teaching the importance of the historical events that created our great nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature finds the number of citizens of the United States unable to correctly sing the National Anthem unacceptable and wholeheartedly supports the National Anthem Project. The Legislature encourages all Nebraska music educators and citizens to participate in the National Anthem Project as promoted by the National Association for Music Education and the Nebraska Music Educators Association.

2. That the Legislature recognizes and commends all music

teachers, the National Association for Music Education, and the National Anthem Project for their commitment to enhancing the quality of music education and their efforts to restore American heritage and promote the significance of the National Anthem through the National Anthem Project.

3. That the Legislature also commends First Lady Laura Bush for her efforts on behalf of the National Anthem Project.