

109<sup>th</sup> Congress  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session

# H. R. XXXX

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 9, 2005

Mr. Lungren of California introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the committee on the XX.

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## A BILL

Honoring the day each State was admitted into the Union.

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

3           **Section 1. Short Title.**

4           This act may be cited as the 'State Admission Day Recognition  
5           Act of 2005'

6           **Section 2. State Flag over the White House.**

7           That it is hereby established that the State Flag of each State  
8           shall be flown over the White House on the anniversary of their  
9           admission into the Union.

1                   **Section 3. Precedent for Action.**

2                   The precedent for such action was set by President Coolidge on  
3                   September 9, 1924 when he ordered the California Bear Flag flown  
4                   over the White House, "...and expressed the hope that it be flown on all  
5                   succeeding September nines".

6                   **Section 4. History for Action.**

7                   The history for this action is duly recorded in the October 1924  
8                   issue of The Grizzly Bear, the official journal of the Native Sons of the  
9                   Golden West on page 23 under the title: "Bear Flag at Washington"

10                  For the first time in the history of California, the State (Bear)  
11                  Flag waved over the White House at Washington, DC, on Admission  
12                  Day, September 9. A few days previously, Del Bowley of San  
13                  Francisco, a member of Mission Parlor No. 38 N.S.G.W., called on  
14                  President Coolidge, and presented him with a Bear Flag and outlined  
15                  its history. The President volunteered to have the state emblem flown  
16                  from the White House on Admission Day, in honor of California.  
17

18                  In acknowledgment of the compliment to California, Edward J.  
19                  Lynch, Grand President of the Order of Native Sons of the Golden  
20                  West, dispatched the following telegram to President Coolidge, under  
21                  date of September 9:  
22

23                  "Californians are elated to know that for the first time in history  
24                  our state banner, the Bear Flag, is flying over the Capital of the nation.  
25                  We deeply appreciate this tribute which you have paid to the people of  
26                  California upon the seventy-fourth anniversary of its admission the  
27                  Union. The Bear Flag was first raised in the historic town of Sonoma  
28                  on June 14, 1846 by an intrepid band of Americans, while California  
29                  was still claimed by Mexico and other foreign powers were preparing  
30                  to take possession. They determined to hold California as a republic  
31                  until the time should come when the Stars and Stripes should wave over  
32                  the entire land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On behalf of the Native  
33                  Sons of California, I extend most cordial greetings and our most sincere  
34                  appreciation."  
35

1 Additional accounts were provided by the San Francisco  
2 Chronicle in this front page article dated September 9, 1924:

3 **Bear Flag Tops White House**  
4 **President Honors California's Emblem**  
5 **First Washington Display**  
6

7 The Bear Flag will float today over the White House in  
8 Washington, D.C. The emblem flung to the breeze by Freemont  
9 previous to California's Admission to the Union seventy-four years  
10 ago will be seen on every flagstaff today throughout California, but  
11 this is the first time that the Bear Flag has been officially recognized  
12 by the President of the United States.

13  
14 **President Thanked**  
15

16 Thousands as they pass the White House will wonder at that flag. It  
17 will be commented upon in the newspapers and stories told of it  
18 when the bedtime program over the radio.

19  
20 Word that President Coolidge, who ordered the Bear Flag  
21 flown today, has thus honored California was known yesterday to  
22 many organizations of San Francisco, and many telegrams were sent  
23 the President thanking him.

24  
25 **Accepts State Emblem**  
26

27 Delevan B. Bowley attended the national encampment of the Sons of  
28 Veterans in Boston this summer, and on his way back stopped in  
29 Washington where he met the President. Bowley had occasion to  
30 mention the Bear Flag and recounted its history. President Coolidge  
31 was much interested and gladly accepted a silk Bear Flag that  
32 Bowley offered him, saying that he would be pleased to have it  
33 flown over the White House on Admission day, and expressed the  
34 hope that it would be flown on all succeeding September nines.

1 As well this article on page two in the Washington Post dated  
2 September 10, 1924:

3 **California's Flag Flies From the White House**  
4

5 An innovation was instituted at the White House yesterday  
6 when the California State Flag was raised over the executive  
7 mansion along side the Stars and Stripes. The occasion was the  
8 seventy-fourth anniversary of the admision of California as a State.  
9 The flag, of white silk about two feet square, bore the figure of a  
10 bear, which is prominent in the California State seal.

11  
12 California is the first State to be honored in this way. It was  
13 done at the suggestion of Delevan B. Bowley, of San Francisco  
14 commander of the Loyal Legion of California, who recently called  
15 upon President Coolidge.

16  
17 **Section 4. History of Delevan B. Bowley**  
18

19 Delevan Bates Bowley was born December 28, 1873, the  
20 second son of Flora and Captain Freeman Sparks Bowley.

21 During the Civil War, Captain Bowley was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of  
22 the 30<sup>th</sup> United States Color Troops and was captured as a POW  
23 during the Battle of Petersburg, VA in July of 1864. His memoirs  
24 were published later as "A Boy Lieutenant-Memoirs of Freeman S.  
25 Bowley-30th United States Colored Troops Officer" with an  
26 Introduction by Ronald R. Seagrave and Edited by Pia Seija  
27 Seagrave, Ph.D.

28 Delevan was named after his father's commanding officer,  
29 Colonel Delevan Bates who was appointed Bvt. Brigadier General

1 and awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor after being shot in  
2 the face while leading the 30<sup>th</sup> USCT at the Battle of Petersburg.

3 After the war, Captain Bowley was stationed at the Presidio in  
4 San Francisco where he and his wife Flora raised 5 children, 4 boys  
5 and a girl.

6 While Delevan did not join the military, two of his brothers,  
7 Lt Col. Freeman W. Bowley and Lt. General Albert J. Bowley  
8 graduated from West Point and served with distinction for many  
9 years with Albert becoming Commander of the Ninth Army.

10 However, Delevan did not shirk from his duty, but followed  
11 in the family footsteps serving in the Patriotic Societies working his  
12 way up to Commander of the Loyal Legion of California (MOLLUS)  
13 in 1924, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of the Union Veterans of  
14 the Civil War (SUVCW) in 1928-1929 and finally, President of the  
15 Federated Patriotic Societies of California in 1935-1936.

16 It was following his trip to Boston for the Grand Encampment in  
17 1924 that he met with President Coolidge, and presented the Bear Flag.

18 During his many years of patriotic service, he worked closely  
19 with his mother who served for 70 years in the Woman's Relief Corp,  
20 Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and was affectionately known as  
21 "Mother Bowley" for her tireless care of the sick and wounded from

1 both the Spanish American War and WWI. She died in 1936 at the  
2 age of 93.

3 His father, Freeman S. Bowley was an original companion in  
4 the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and died of Small Pox in 1903  
5 at the age of 56.

6 Delevan passed on January 20, 1947 at the age of 74.

7 In addition to his patriotic many memberships, Delevan was a  
8 Master Mason , Seaport Lodge #550, San Francisco and a member of  
9 Sons of the Golden West, Mission Parlor #38 also of San Francisco.

10 During his Civil War service, Captain Bowley met President  
11 Lincoln at the Executive Mansion while stationed in Washington, but  
12 his mother knew Mr. Lincoln quite well, frequently recalling many  
13 first hand incidents during the stirring times of 1861-1865.

14 At the end of his term as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of  
15 Union Veterans, Delevan was presented a framed portrait of Abraham  
16 Lincoln gift with the following inscription on the back:

17 **Rough Diamonds.**

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

God sends great souls into the world  
Clothed oftentimes in curious attire.  
And one misses much good fellowship  
Who thinks that from what men seem to be  
He can determine what they are.

1           **Section 4. Responsibility for Action.**

2           Since California was the first to have her flag flown over the  
3           White House, the responsibility falls upon her to reestablish the  
4           tradition and create the opportunity for every state to be so honored.

5           **Section 5. Initiative by Native Sons of the Golden West.**

6           Since their founding by General Albert Winn in 1875, the Native  
7           Sons of the Golden West have been dedicated to the principles of  
8           Friendship, Loyalty & Charity and have sought to honor and keep alive  
9           the history of California and the United States. In that regard, this Act  
10          has been initiated by the Native Sons of the Golden West to honor  
11          Admission Day not only in California, but for her sister States as well.

12          **Section 6. Designated Annual Meeting .**

13          Since Admission Day is special to each State, and happens but  
14          once a year, it creates the perfect opportunity for each Governor to have  
15          a designated “Annual Meeting” with the President to discuss matters of  
16          State.

17          **Section 7. California First State.**

18          This Act shall begin on September 9, 2006 with California as the  
19          first State, followed by the other 49 as dictated by the calendar.

1                   **Section 8. Proclamation for California Admission Day**

2                   The Congress requests the President issue a Proclamation each year  
3 recognizing September 9<sup>th</sup> as California Admission Day,  
4 ordering the California Bear Flag flown over the White House, and  
5 inviting the Governor to the White House for an Annual Meeting to discuss  
6 matters of State.

7                   **Section 9. Proclamation for State Admission Days.**

8                   The Congress requests the President honor the other 49 states by  
9 issuing a Proclamation each year recognizing their Admission Day, ordering  
10 their State Flag be flown over the White House, and inviting the Governor  
11 to the White House for an Annual Meeting to discuss matters of State.

12                   **Section 10. Admission Day for the 50 States.**

13                   Admission Day for the 50 states are as follows:

14 (1) California-September 9, 1850;(2) Nevada-October 31, 1864; (3) North  
15 Dakota-November 2, 1889; (4) South Dakota-November 2, 1889; (5)  
16 Montana-November 8, 1889; (6) Washington-November 11, 1889; (7)  
17 Oklahoma-November 16, 1907; (8) North Carolina-November 21, 1789; (9)  
18 Illinois-December 1818; (10) Delaware-December 7,1787; (11) Mississippi-  
19 December 10, 1817; (12) Indiana-December 11, 1817; (13) Pennsylvania-  
20 December 12, 1787; (14) Alabama- December 14, 1819; (15) New Jersey-  
21 December 18, 1787; (16) Iowa-December 28, 1846; (17) Texas-December



1 29, 1845; (18) Georgia-January 2, 1788; (19) Alaska-January 3, 1959; (20)  
2 Utah-January 4, 1896; (21) New Mexico-January 6, 1912; (22) Connecticut-  
3 January 9, 1788; (23) Michigan-January 26, 1837; (24) Kansas-January 29,  
4 1861; (25) Massachusetts-February 6, 1788; (26) Oregon-February 14,  
5 1859; (27) Arizona-February 14, 1912; (28) Ohio-March 1, 1803; (29)  
6 Nebraska-March 1, 1867; (30) Florida-March 3, 1845; (31) Vermont-March  
7 4, 1791; (32) Maine-March 15, 1820; (33) Maryland-April 28, 1788; (34)  
8 Louisiana-April 30, 1812; (35) Minnesota-May 11, 1858; (36) South  
9 Carolina-May 23, 1788; (37) Rhode Island-May 29, 1790; (38) Wisconsin-  
10 May 29, 1848; (39) Kentucky-June 1, 1792; (40) Tennessee-June 1, 1796;  
11 (41) Arkansas-June 15, 1836; (42) West Virginia-June 20, 1863; (43) New  
12 Hampshire- June 21, 1788; (44) Virginia-June 25, 1788; (45) Idaho-July 3,  
13 1890; (46) Wyoming-July 10, 1890; (47) New York-July 26, 1788; (48)  
14 Colorado-August 1, 1876; (49) Missouri-August 10, 1821; (50) Hawaii-  
15 August 21, 1959.