

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4654, by Representatives Orcutt and Abbarno

1 WHEREAS, Over 150 years ago farmers settled in the Lewis River
2 Valley in the area known as the Woodland Bottoms, growing corn,
3 carrots, berries, other crops, and livestock; and

4 WHEREAS, The Woodland Bottoms lies within the floodplain of the
5 Columbia and Lewis River and was prone to flooding that forced many
6 farmers to have two farms, one in the Woodland Bottoms and another up
7 in the surrounding foothills that forced the farmers to spend many
8 hours traveling from one farm to the other to grow and harvest crops;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Devastating floods in 1876, 1894, and 1919 took their
11 toll on farmers and, because the progressive farmers had finally had
12 enough of the flooding waters, they developed a levee system that
13 protected many acres of land and had a marked effect upon the local
14 economy; and

15 WHEREAS, The dike was completed in January, 1921, but was
16 breached by the Columbia River on May 30th at the north end of the
17 Bottoms; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1922 the levee was repaired and protected the Bottoms
19 and the town of Woodland, which relied on farmers for their
20 prosperity; and

21 WHEREAS, E.C. Blue and L.N. Plomondon determined there needed to
22 be a Thanksgiving type of celebration to commemorate the dike holding
23 and the forthcoming prosperity of the farmers. In the spirit of good

1 fellowship, with H.W. Mitchell being in charge, the community
2 businesses gathered together and funded and organized an event; and

3 WHEREAS, In searching for a name, Gene Blue suggested Planters
4 Day, because the farmers could plant their crops without fear of
5 flooding, the first Planters Day was held on Friday, June 30, 1922.
6 This first Planters Day was hailed as the "greatest event ever given
7 in Woodland"; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1925 the Woodland Volunteer Fire Department was
9 formed and they organized and funded the Planters Day celebration
10 until 1970. But in 1970 the festival grew too large for a single
11 organization to sustain, so the Planters Day committee was created
12 and has continued to organize the celebration; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the years, Planters Days has included a parade, a
14 street dance, a royal court, fireworks, a children's parade,
15 firefighters muster/red ball competition, penny scramble, frog
16 jumping contest, logging show events, motorcycle events, classic car
17 show, bed races, military exhibitions, and truck and tractor rodeos;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, There is a deep sense of pride in the Woodland
20 community, an immense amount of volunteer time, dedication and
21 cooperation by many individuals which has continued this incredible
22 legacy; and

23 WHEREAS, 2022 marks the centennial celebration of Planters Day;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of
25 Representatives, does hereby recognize that June 16th through 19th,
26 2022, will constitute the Centennial celebration by Woodland
27 Washington of its "Planters Days" and joins with the Woodland
28 community in acknowledging this remarkable contribution to the
29 history of Washington State.

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