

December 7, 2022

Chair Roenger, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee,

I write in support of SB 346, a fitting tribute to Ulysses S. Grant from his native state in the year that marks his 200th birthday. Grant graduated from West Point in 1843 and fought gallantly during the Mexican-American War.

His achievements are unsurpassed among American leaders. During the Civil War, he rose through sheer ability and courage to become the supreme commander of the Union armies. Over the course of his battles and campaigns, including at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, the Wilderness Campaign, the Petersburg Campaign, and the Appomattox Campaign, General Grant was the principal author of Union victory. His magnanimous surrender terms at Appomattox earned him the gratitude of battlefield foes. His military victories enabled the emancipation of enslaved people. General Grant oversaw military Reconstruction after the war and supported groundbreaking civil rights measures.

He served as the nation's eighteenth president between 1869 and 1877. As president, he secured the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibits racial discrimination with respect to voting rights. He signed into law the creation of the Department of Justice, several Enforcement Acts, and a Civil Rights Act upholding equal rights. He pushed prosecution efforts that crushed the nineteenth-century Ku Klux Klan. He resolved disputes with Spain and Great Britain that threatened war, advancing an important principle for peace among nations. His peace policy made the humane treatment of Native Americans a priority and helped save them from extinction. His economic policy took on serious fiscal and monetary challenges and laid the groundwork for future prosperity. During his two-year trip around the world, former President Grant established a model of public diplomacy for future presidents. His *Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant* stands as one of the greatest works of American literature.

In war and in peace, Ulysses S. Grant displayed an unflinching dedication to his country and the highest personal character. The designation of his birthday as a state holiday is an appropriate way to honor the general and president whose extraordinary leadership saved the Union and worked to bring about a new era of peace and equality for all Americans.

Frank Scaturro
President
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