

News Release

Roscoe Bartlett

Representing the 6th District of Maryland

Committees: Armed Services, Science, & Small Business



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Rep. Roscoe Bartlett Reintroduces Bill, H.R. 43, to Restore the Celebration of the George Washington Birthday Federal Holiday Observed on Monday, February 21

Washington, D.C. – “A generic Presidents’ Day diminishes the accomplishments of America’s greatest Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, while rewarding the mediocrity of others,” said Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-6-MD) explaining why he has reintroduced his legislation to restore recognition of the federal holiday that will be observed on Monday, February 21 by its legal name, Washington’s Birthday. *There is not and never has been a Presidents’ Day federal holiday!*

The bill, H.R. 43, which Congressman Bartlett first introduced in the 107th Congress, would direct all federal government agencies to refer to the federal holiday on the third Monday in February by its legal name, George Washington's Birthday. Washington’s actual birthday is February 22. The bill also calls upon the President to issue a proclamation each year recognizing the anniversary of the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln.

“The big lie of Presidents’ Day stems from the 1968 law which shifted the observance of most federal holidays to Mondays,” said Congressman Bartlett. “George Washington’s birthday was one of the original federal holidays, but it is no longer observed on his actual birthday. February also marks the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, another of our greatest Presidents. Without this bill, there will be no commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday or his accomplishments in preserving the Union and issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.”

Congressman Bartlett noted, “There would be no Declaration of Independence, no United States of America, no Constitution, and no Presidency at all without George Washington. He is also the only President elected unanimously, not once, but twice. Washington admitting to chopping down the cherry tree because he couldn’t tell a lie was a historical myth designed to elevate his greatness. Presidents’ Day is a historical myth that is more damaging because it eliminates Washington’s indispensable greatness from our conversations, news stories and school lessons about this federal holiday. H.R. 43 would help correct this ongoing historic travesty.”

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