

UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA

RESOLUTION

Support for National Folk Dance Campaign

- Whereas; The United Square Dancers of America, through the unanimous passage of its 1981 Resolution of Support of the National Folk Dance Campaign, has long acknowledged the importance of recognizing the "Square Dance" (including square, round, contra, clog, line, and heritage dancing) as it exemplifies and demonstrates our National American heritage and culture; and,*
- Whereas; The United Square Dancers of America, through its National Folk Dance Committee, has an active program for the promotion of the campaign to encourage the Congress of the United States of America to permanently designate the square dance as the National Folk Dance of these United States of America;*
- Therefore: Be it resolved that the United Square Dancers of America encourages all Square Dancers to support the effort to establish the "Square Dance" as the National Folk Dance through –*
- 1. Early Fall 2002*
 - a. Seeking the support of Congressional Candidates during the Fall 2002 elections to co-sponsor legislation designate the Square Dance as the National Folk Dance through a dancer letter writing, e-mailing and personal contact effort;*
 - b. Educating these Congressional Candidates of the benefits of Square Dancing;*
 - c. Informing these Congressional Candidates of those States which have previously designated the Square Dance as its State Folk Dance;*
 - 2. Late Fall 2002*
 - a. Subsequent to the November 2002 Congressional Elections conduct a follow-up campaign to reiterate the steps outlined above with those candidates elected to office;*
 - b. Encourage all Congressmen and the Congressional Leadership to co-sponsor Square Dance legislation;*



3. Early 2003

- a. Draft Bill to be introduced in Congress;*
- b. Square Dancers travel to Washington D.C. to schedule meetings with their Congressmen to discuss the importance of this legislation;*
- c. Continue the letter writing efforts urging support of this legislation;*

4. 2003 – 2004 (if necessary) - Maintain efforts of support for passage of legislation;

Therefore: Be it resolved that the United Square Dancers of America National Folk Dance Committee submit the following draft Bill to the 108th Congress in January 2003:

JOINT RESOLUTION

To Designate the Square Dance as the National Folk Dance of the United States of America.

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

- (1) Square Dance as being a popular tradition in America since early colonial days.*
- (2) Square Dancing has attained a revered status as part of the folklore of this Country.*
- (3) Square Dance is a joyful expression of the vibrant spirit of the people of the United States of America.*
- (4) The people of the United States of America value the display of etiquette among men and women that is a major element of the Square Dance.*
- (5) Square Dance is a traditional form of family recreation, which symbolizes a basic strength of this Country, namely the unity of the family.*

- (6) *Square Dance is a healthful activity for all ages to enjoy dance and fellowship and where disabled persons become skilled, happy and "Handicap able" dancers.*
- (7) *Square Dance epitomizes democracy because it dissolves arbitrary social distinctions.*
- (8) *Square Dance is the National Folk Dance, which is called, cued, or prompted to the dancers, and includes Square, Round, Contra, Clogging, Line and Heritage Dances.*
- (9) *It is fitting that the Square Dance be added to the array of symbols of our national character and pride.*

SECTION 2. DESIGNATION OF THE SQUARE DANCE AS THE NATIONAL FOLK DANCE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Square Dance is permanently designated as the National Folk Dance of the United States of America.

Now, therefore: Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the Square Dance is permanently designated the National Folk Dance of the United States of America

*Adopted by majority vote of
UNITED SQUARE DANCERS OF AMERICA
Board of Directors present and voting during their
Annual Meeting this Twenty-Sixth (26th)
day of June 2002 at St. Paul, Minnesota.*

