

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Senators Geiss, Cherry, Shink, Klinefelt, Chang, Brinks, Bayer, McMorrow, McCann, Irwin, Wojno, Polehanki and Cavanagh offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 12, 2023, as Loving Day.

2 Whereas, Mildred and Richard Loving were an interracial couple
3 who were married in Washington D.C., in 1958, but were banned from
4 marrying in their home state of Virginia, where interracial
5 marriage was illegal at the time; and

6 Whereas, The Lovings were arrested five weeks after their
7 marriage, found guilty of violating the Act to Preserve Racial
8 Integrity, and banned from the state of Virginia for 25 years; and

9 Whereas, The Lovings challenged this ruling five years into
10 their 25 year sentence and their case was taken up by the American

1 Civil Liberties Union; and

2 Whereas, *Loving v. Virginia* worked its way through the
3 judicial system until the United States Supreme Court unanimously
4 decided in 1967 that the Lovings' marriage should be upheld; and

5 Whereas, The Virginia statute was found unconstitutional under
6 the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution which forbids
7 states from restricting basic rights of citizens or other persons;
8 and

9 Whereas, Laws banning interracial marriages were found
10 similarly unconstitutional and struck down in 16 remaining states
11 that observed them; and

12 Whereas, Loving Day was founded in 2004, and has garnered
13 support from thousands of people domestically and internationally,
14 and from organizations and publications; and

15 Whereas, Loving Day celebrations aim to create a common
16 connection between multiracial communities, groups, and
17 individuals; and

18 Whereas, Loving Day's mission is to fight racial prejudice,
19 promote tolerance, awareness, and understanding through education,
20 and foster supportive multicultural communities; and

21 Whereas, Loving Day seeks to commemorate and celebrate the
22 United States Supreme Court's 1967 ruling, keeping its importance
23 fresh in the minds of a generation that has grown up with
24 interracial relationships being legal, as well as to explore issues
25 facing couples currently in interracial relationships; and

26 Whereas, Michigan has long celebrated and enjoyed this freedom
27 since it became state law in 1883 by repeal of the 1838
28 Miscegenation Act; and

29 Whereas, We now advance through the 21st century as a

1 multiracial and multicultural society and realize that we must find
2 a common vision from our interwoven past to build a society free of
3 racism for the benefit of our collective future; now, therefore, be
4 it

5 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
6 body commemorate June 12, 2023, as Loving Day.