

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 132

Senator Geiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 12, 2024, 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
11 Civil Liberties Union; and

12 Whereas, *Loving v. Virginia* worked its way through the

1 judicial system until the United States Supreme Court unanimously
2 decided in 1967 that the Lovings' marriage should be upheld; and

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

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

10 Whereas, In 2004, Loving Day was founded and has garnered
11 support from thousands of people domestically and internationally,
12 and from organizations and publications; and

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

16 Whereas, The mission of Loving Day is to fight racial
17 prejudice, promote tolerance, awareness, and understanding through
18 education, and foster supportive multicultural communities; and

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

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

27 Whereas, We recognize the importance of diversity, acceptance,
28 and the right to love freely without boundaries; 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, 2024, as Loving Day. We promote unity
7 among all people.