

SCR

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Alaska State Legislature

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Senator Shelley Hughes

Senate District F—Greater Palmer, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Eklutna, Fairview Loop, Gateway, Butte, Lazy Mountain

SCR 15 Education and Sharing Day

Sponsor Statement

Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 proclaims March 27, 2017 as “Alaska Education and Sharing Day” to provide focus on the importance and recognition of values, ethics, and character development to help students become engaged, caring, and responsible citizens.

This resolution is aligned with national proclamations that have occurred since 1978 when Congress set aside the anniversary of the birth of Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson to be “Education and Sharing Day.” The Rebbe dedicated his life to the promotion of education as a cornerstone of humanity, and held that in addition to academics, the discussion of morals should not be neglected. His legacy was encouraging Americans to teach and share with the next generation the values that make good citizens, a strong nation, and a better world.

For 40 years, every United States president, regardless of political stripes or religious affiliation, has honored this vision by proclaiming “Education and Sharing Day” nationally. Because education for Alaskan students occurs here at home, it is prudent for us also to honor this vision in Alaska.

Please join me in supporting Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 and setting aside March 27 as a day to reflect and share with students those elements outside of academics that are essential to becoming fine citizens.

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February 28, 2018

Senator Shelley Hughes
Representative Harriet Drummond
c/o the Alaska State Legislature
4th Avenue and Main Street
Juneau, AK 99801
Via sen.shelley.hughes@akleg.gov
joanna.schultz@akleg.gov

RE: Endorsement and Support: Education and Sharing Day, Alaska

Dear Senator Hughes and Representative Drummond:

Please accept my gratitude for your efforts on behalf of an Education and Sharing Day for Alaska. I presently serve as a Tribal Judge for Alaska Native communities throughout Alaska, sitting most often in the communities of Sitka and St. Paul Island, Alaska. It is evident in my every-day work, particularly in the field of Family Law, the essential importance of excellence in education. By this statement, I mean much more than top shelf grammar and mathematics for our children, but also the importance of common values like gratitude, service to others, accountability, continuous growth in knowledge, and deeds of kindness. As a tribal judge, father, and community member, I sincerely believe that celebrating the values of Education and Sharing Day in Alaska will inure to our benefit as a State and a Nation for the generations to come.

I am heartened by your choice of the birthday of the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (Of Blessed Memory) as the date to commemorate Education and Sharing Day, Alaska. The Rebbe stretched every moment of his life promoting excellence in education as evidenced by his thousands of community educational initiatives in the United States and the World. The Rebbe's body of work embodies positivity in the face of challenge, never-ceasing quest for knowledge, and deeds of goodness and kindness to others. Thank you again for your efforts in this regard.

I

With Esteem and Blessings of Success,

JUDGE DAVID AVRAHAM VOLUCK



February 24, 2018

My husband and I support the passage of SCR 15 AS WE BELIEVE IT WILL PUT A FOCUS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MORALITY AND FAMILY VALUES. Thank you.

Donna Austin
donnaeaustin@hotmail.com

February 6, 2018

Dear Senator Shelley Hughes,

To the Alaska Senate:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being an instrumental part of bringing Education and Sharing Day to Alaska. This day is the perfect way to honor Rabbi M. Schneersohn, who dedicated so much of his life to bringing his vision of an ethical education to all humanity.

Living in Alaska provides me with a unique opportunity to experience what it means to be an integral part of a society. The pioneering spirit lends itself to unifying our community and working together to succeed. One of the tenants of Judaism is kindness and compassion. As part of my work in social services, I see how much of a role these values play in our communities, and I believe in the importance of making these values an essential part of educating the next generation.

Thank you for working to shine a spotlight on an important day.

Yours respectfully,

Hillary Saffran
hillary@hillarysaffran.com

February 23, 2018

I am writing to support the passage of SCR15 which allows the teachers to address family values and morality in the classroom. I think this is needed as part of a well rounded education. Thank you.

Janet Luce
janetmluce@hotmail.com

February 23, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for supporting "Education and Sharing Day, Alaska." This resolution is important because it will help Alaskans learn about compassion, giving, and kindness—essential values for positive role models and healthy communities.

As an Alaskan Native from Bristol Bay and St. Lawrence Island, I support this resolution because it aligns with my personal and cultural beliefs. I believe our communities will improve by reflecting on compassion, ways to give back to the community, and kindness for oneself and others. It's vital for the next generation of Alaskans to learn the importance of these values because it's what will change the future of our communities.

Thanks again for working towards a better Alaska.

Kind regards,

Raquel Schroeder

Anchorage, Alaska

(907) 290-4044

rschroederak@gmail.com

February 24, 2018

Dear Representative Drummond & Senator Hughes,

Thank you for your time in considering Bill HCR 21 and SCR 15, which recognizes that education isn't just used for career advancement or monetary gains, but to build character by teaching morals and ethics in Alaska and all over the world.

This is important for Alaskan youth to recognize and reflect on "Education and Sharing Day, Alaska" because it's easy to fall into the pattern of stealing, drug abuse, and other crimes that communities are currently experiencing. The next generation should reflect on these behaviors and consider their individual morals and ethics to build upon.

Thank you for considering "Education and Sharing Day, Alaska." It truly means a lot for the Great State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Walter & Reneé Pickett
doralake@gci.net

Dear Senator Hughes

Thank you for your time in considering your endorsement of Bill SCR 15.

This bill helps to create a better Alaska by focusing on education and reflection. Morals and ethics should be emphasized in education to create better citizens and to teach younger Alaskans the importance of good character. Educating younger generations about morals and ethics means better American citizens and better communities in Alaska.

I request your serious review and endorsement of this meaningful resolution. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Matthew Paskin
mpaskindeployed@hotmail.com
JBER, AK 99506

Sen. Hughes, Ms. Schultz and colleagues,

I fully support Alaska Education and Sharing Day, as it recognizes that excellence in education in all the arts and sciences, history, technical education, grounded in ethics, personal integrity, courage and tolerance, is crucial to our society by developing the minds and hearts of our youth, to become better citizens.

By giving our young people the opportunity to develop intellect and character, curiosity and compassion, we commit ourselves to improving our society and bettering the lives of all.

Sincerely,
Carole Jaffa
cjaffa35@gmail.com
Moose Pass, Alaska

WIKIPEDIA

Education and Sharing Day

Education and Sharing Day is a day established by the United States Congress in honor of the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson. It calls for increased focus on education, and recognizes the efforts of The Rebbe for education and sharing for all people. Since 1978 **Education & Sharing Day, USA** has been proclaimed annually the President on the Rebbe's Jewish birthday (11 Nissan), which generally falls out in April.

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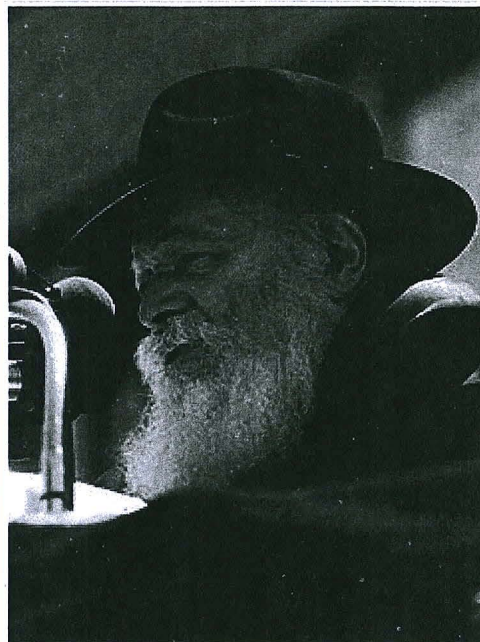
History

In 1978, the U.S. Congress asked President Carter to designate the Rebbe's birthday as the national Education and Sharing Day to recognize and pay tribute to his efforts for a better education for all American citizens.^[1]

The Rebbe was a passionate advocate for children and spoke about the need for each child to be given an education that would offer them the opportunities to succeed. He spoke about the need for education to focus not only on academic achievements but also on character building. The Rebbe established a network of several thousand schools and educational centers in America and across the globe.

To honor these accomplishments, his birth date has been since commemorated as Education & Sharing Day, U.S.A., by Congress and the President.^{[2][3]} Each year on that day, the President issues a proclamation which calls on American citizens to follow the example set by The Rebbe and focus on education and betterment of society.^[4]

Education and Sharing Day



Rabbi M. M. Schneerson

Official name	Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A.
Observed by	United States
Type	National
Significance	Celebration of hard work, service and commitment to learning
Date	11 Nissan
2017 date	April 7
2018 date	March 27
2019 date	April 16
2020 date	April 5
Frequency	Annual

Excerpts of Texts of Proclamations

President Ronald Reagan wrote in his proclamation of 1982:

One shining example for people of all faiths of what education ought to be is that provided by the Lubavitch movement, headed by Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, a worldwide spiritual leader who will celebrate his 80th birthday on April 4, 1982. The Lubavitcher Rebbe's work stands as a reminder that knowledge is an unworthy goal unless it is accompanied by moral and spiritual wisdom and understanding. He has provided a vivid example of the eternal validity of the Seven Noahide Laws, a moral code for all of us regardless of religious faith. May he go from strength to strength.

In recognition of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's 80th birthday, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled have issued House Joint Resolution 447 to set aside April 4, 1982, as a "National Day of Reflection."

President George H. W. Bush wrote in his proclamation of 1989:

It is fitting that we honor Rabbi Schneerson and acknowledge his important contributions to society. Our great Nation takes just pride in its dedication to the principles of justice, equality, and truth. Americans also understand that we have a responsibility to inspire the same dedication in future generations. We owe a tremendous debt to Rabbi Schneerson and to all those who promote education that embraces moral and ethical values and emphasizes their importance.

In recognition of Rabbi Schneerson's vital efforts, and in celebration of his 87th birthday, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 173, has designated April 16, 1989, and April 6, 1990, as "Education Day, U.S.A."

President Bill Clinton wrote in his proclamation of 1995:

"Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, well understood the importance of nurturing the heart along with the mind. Throughout his long and rich life, he believed that the education of our young people would only be successful if it sought to build character as well as intellect, if it taught the lessons of honesty, tolerance, and good citizenship, as well as language, math, and science.

This year, let us rededicate ourselves to teaching the love of learning that was championed by Rabbi Schneerson and is strengthened by caring leaders like him throughout our Nation. As we provide our students with the information and practical tools they need, let us also pass on to them the capacity for understanding that can help to give fuller meaning to their lives."

President George W. Bush wrote in his proclamation on Education and Sharing Day 2007:

"Education and Sharing Day honors The Rebbe and emphasizes our commitment to teach the next generation of Americans the values that make our country strong. The Lubavitcher Rabbi believes that society should 'make a new commitment to kindness,' and he helped to establish education and outreach centers offering social service programs and humanitarian aid around the world."

President Barack Obama wrote in his proclamation on Education & Sharing Day 2009:

"Few have better understood or more successfully promoted these ideas than Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who emphasized the importance of education and good character. Through the establishment of educational and social service institutions across the country and the world, Rabbi Schneerson sought to empower young people and inspire individuals of all ages. On this day, we raise his call anew."^[5]

President Donald Trump wrote in his proclamation on Education & Sharing Day 2017:

"Education and Sharing Day recognizes the remarkable efforts of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, to use values-based education to drive our Nation's children toward the American Dream. As an educator, Rabbi Schneerson understands that education is incomplete if it is devoid of moral development. Working through a spirit of optimism, he strives to teach children to be honest, civil, respectful of differences, and self-disciplined, in addition to being intellectually rigorous."^[6]

The 1991 bill described the Noahide Laws as the "ethical values and principles which are the basis of civilized society and upon which our great Nation was founded".^[7]

President George W. Bush called upon "government officials, educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to reach out to young people and work to create a better, brighter, and more hopeful future for all."

More on Rabbi Schneerson's Educational Initiatives

- Seven Laws of Noah
- Chabad on Campus

References

1. "Page:United States Statutes at Large Volume 92 Part 1.djvu/254" (http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Page:United_States_Statutes_at_Large_Volume_92_Part_1.djvu/254). Wikisource. Retrieved 2013-11-13.
2. Joseph Telushkin, *Rebbe: The Life and Teachings of Menachem M. Schneerson, the Most Influential Rabbi in Modern History*. HarperCollins, 2014. pp.30-36.
3. Fishkoff, Sue. The Rebbe's Army, Schoken, 2003 (08052 11381). Page 192.
4. "Obama Declares Lubavitcher Rebbe's Birthday 'Education and Sharing Day' " (<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/news/obama-declares-lubavitcher-rebbe-s-birthday-education-and-sharing-day-1.511434>).

5. "The White House - Press Office - Presidential Proclamation Marking Education And Sharing Day" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090926032340/http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-Marking-Education-And-Sharing-Day/). Archived from the original (https://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-Marking-Education-And-Sharing-Day/) on September 26, 2009.
6. Office of the Press Secretary (April 6, 2017). "President Donald J. Trump Proclaims April 7, 2017, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A." (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/06/president-donald-j-trump-proclaims-april-7-2017-education-and-sharing>) whitehouse.gov. Washington, D.C.: White House. Retrieved April 7, 2017.
7. To designate March 26, 1991, as 'Education Day, U.S.A.'. (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate) (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c102:H.J.RES.104.ENR:>)

External links

- *Education and Sharing Day 2000* by President William J. Clinton honoring the 98th birthday of Rabbi Schneerson (<http://clinton5.nara.gov/WH/New/html/20000324.html>)
- Proclamation of *Education and Sharing Day 2002* by President George W. Bush also honoring the 100th birthday of Rabbi Schneerson (<https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020325-4.html>)
- Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2009 (https://web.archive.org/web/20090926032340/http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Presidential-Proclamation-Marking-Education-And-Sharing-Day/)
- President Reagan's proclamations' in honor of Education Day USA (<http://www.chabad.org/library/article.asp?AID=142535>)
- About the Rebbe (<http://www.chabad.org/therebbe/default.asp>)
 - The Rebbe on education (<http://www.chabad.org/therebbe/article.asp?AID=60692>)
- Inaugurating "Educational Day USA" (<http://www.chabadnews.us/Old%20Articles/AT%2000026.htm>)
 - Picture of first assemblage in honor of "Educational Day USA" (<http://www.chabadnews.us/Old%20Pictures/HP%2000026.htm>)
- Rebbe: "Education the cornerstone to humanity" (<http://www.chabadnews.us/Old%20Articles/AT%2000028.htm>)

See also

- [Yud Aleph Nissan](#)

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