

1 **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING RAILROAD**

2 **WORKERS DAY**

3 2019 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan**

6 Senate Sponsor: Scott D. Sandall

8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **General Description:**

10 This resolution designates May 10 as Utah Railroad Workers Day.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This resolution:

- 13 ▶ expresses gratitude for the dedication and sacrifices of the railroad workers that
- 14 helped build and complete the transcontinental railroad;
- 15 ▶ expresses gratitude for the railroad workers today who continue to selflessly commit
- 16 themselves to the good of our state and nation by connecting Utah and the United
- 17 States by rail; and
- 18 ▶ designates May 10 as Utah Railroad Workers Day.

19 **Special Clauses:**

20 None

22 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

23 WHEREAS, the completion of the transcontinental railroad, including the dedication

24 and sacrifice of Utah railroad workers in building it, is an integral part of Utah and American

25 history;

26 WHEREAS, May 10, 2019, will be the 150th anniversary of the completion of the

27 transcontinental railroad connecting the Central Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific



28 Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah and the Golden Spike ceremony commemorating the
29 event;

30 WHEREAS, it took nearly six years to complete the transcontinental railroad, requiring
31 nearly 15,000 railroad workers and laborers to finish the overland route across the American
32 West;

33 WHEREAS, the railroad workers reflected the multicultural and changing
34 demographics of the United States at that time and included immigrants from various nations
35 such as China, Ireland, and Germany, former Civil War soldiers, and freed slaves from across
36 the country;

37 WHEREAS, thousands of early Utah settlers also helped complete the rail line as it was
38 nearing its finish in the Utah desert;

39 WHEREAS, most of the construction of the railroad was done by hand and required
40 overcoming dangerous and difficult obstacles to construct rail lines through the challenging
41 terrain of the intermountain west, including tunnel blasting and building on mountainous
42 terrain;

43 WHEREAS, at times, both railroad companies were laying down track at an
44 unprecedented pace, including a stretch of 10 miles of track that was laid in a single day by the
45 Central Pacific Railroad crews;

46 WHEREAS, many of the railroad workers sacrificed much, sometimes even their lives,
47 to help finish the transcontinental line;

48 WHEREAS, due to the hard work and dedication of the railroad workers, the
49 transcontinental railroad was finished at Promontory Summit in Utah, linking the United States
50 by rail;

51 WHEREAS, if it were not for the sacrifice of the railroad workers who took part in the
52 construction of the railroad, the successful completion of the transcontinental rail line would
53 not have been possible;

54 WHEREAS, after the transcontinental line was finished, people and goods could more
55 easily travel across the country, introducing a period of growth and expansion in the western
56 United States;

57 WHEREAS, the railroad workers that helped build the transcontinental railroad were an
58 integral part of the history of the American West and of Utah, reflecting the hardworking

59 determination and sacrifice that helped grow the United States;

60 WHEREAS, the proud heritage and tradition of railroad workers continues to exist
61 today as the railroad remains vital to our national and state economy, ensuring that shipments
62 of food, automobiles, agricultural products, and many other types of industrial and
63 manufactured items are delivered across our country; and

64 WHEREAS, the dedication and sacrifice of railroad workers today allows for the
65 continuous and safe shipment and delivery of goods and people across the country and Utah, 24
66 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature, the Governor
68 concurring therein, commemorates the contributions of the transcontinental railroad workers
69 and the dedication and sacrifice of today's railroad workers in the state of Utah by designating
70 May 10 as Utah Railroad Workers Day.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recognize and
72 express gratitude for the dedication and sacrifice of the railroad workers that helped build and
73 complete the transcontinental railroad and the workers today who continue to selflessly commit
74 themselves to the good of our state and nation by connecting Utah and the rest of the United
75 States by rail.