

2024 RES-277

REMEMBERING JANUARY 6, 2021

WHEREAS, four years ago, in the early afternoon of January 6, 2021, a crowd of Americans was incited to overthrow a free and fair election by attempting to stop the certification of the 2020 election results and disrupting the 230-year tradition of peaceful and democratic transition of power in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these individuals breached the outermost barricades of the United States Capitol Complex as members of the U.S. Senate and former Vice-President Pence entered the U.S. House of Representatives chamber to certify the 2020 presidential electoral votes of all states; and

WHEREAS, these individuals—who carried an assortment of weaponry with them and also adapted makeshift weapons out of items inside the building—scaled walls and broke windows to climb inside the Capitol building, opened doors for others to enter the building, stormed Statuary Hall, the Capitol Rotunda, Senate Chamber, and numerous offices, stealing and destroying U.S. government property, including historic memorabilia; and

WHEREAS, these individuals hoisted the Confederate flag within the U.S. Capitol building for the first time, a flag that has been present at lynchings, hate rallies, and insurrections across U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, these individuals threatened physical violence to the Vice President and members of both houses of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, these actions, as well as simultaneous bomb threats to nearby office buildings, violently disrupted the constitutional duties of Congress and required members of both chambers of Congress, their staff members, and the numerous other employees of the U.S. Capitol to evacuate or hide because of the serious threats to their lives; and

WHEREAS, police officers from the United States Capitol Police and Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, as well as numerous other law enforcement agencies, responded to defend the Capitol and Congress and safely evacuate hundreds of members of Congress, their staffs, and other employees; and

WHEREAS, at least 174 police officers from the United States Capitol Police and Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department were injured in defense of the Capitol and Congress, and numerous police officers were forced to take leave or retire from their employment with these police forces due to persistent injuries and trauma sustained during these events; and

WHEREAS, in the days and weeks after the events of January 6, 2021, at least five police officers who had served at the Capitol on that day died from medical conditions or suicide in connection to their defense of the Capitol and Congress; and

WHEREAS, four individuals who participated in storming the Capitol also died that day, one who was fatally shot while trying to breach the House chambers, and the other three from natural causes and a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, after several hours of lockdown, Congress resumed its duties and proceeded to certify the electoral votes of all states due to the work of those who sacrificed to defend democracy that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors solemnly remembers the unprecedented events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, which attempted to threaten our democracy and the peaceful and democratic transfer of power, contributed to the loss of lives, and irrevocably changed countless other lives forever.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors honors and conveys its gratitude to the United States Capitol Police, Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, and other agencies for their service and the sacrifices they made in defense of the U.S. Capitol, U.S. Congress, fellow Americans, and American democracy on January 6, 2021 and beyond.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors vows never to forget the events of January 6, 2021, and to renew its commitment to and vigilance in safeguarding a safe, equitable, and democratic political process.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk