

Senate Bill 809

Sponsored by Senator FERRIOLI, Representative BENTZ; Senators ATKINSON, BOQUIST, COURTNEY, GEORGE, GIROD, HASS, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, MORSE, NELSON, OLSEN, STARR, TELFER, THOMSEN, WHITSETT, WINTERS, Representatives BERGER, BREWER, CAMERON, CONGER, ESQUIVEL, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GILLIAM, HANNA, HICKS, HUFFMAN, JENSON, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, KRIEGER, LINDSAY, MCLANE, OLSON, PARRISH, RICHARDSON, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER, SHEEHAN, G SMITH, SPRENGER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, WAND, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates February 24 of each year as Edward Dickinson Baker Day in Oregon.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Edward Dickinson Baker.

3 Whereas Edward Dickinson Baker was born on February 24, 1811, in London, England and em-
4 igrated to the United States with his family in 1816; and

5 Whereas Edward D. Baker, known to his friends as "Ned," first resided with his parents in
6 Philadelphia, then relocated with his family to Illinois where he practiced law and developed ex-
7 ceptional oratorical and presentation skills that served him well in his military and public life; and

8 Whereas Edward D. Baker became a lifelong friend and political ally of Abraham Lincoln, who
9 named his son "Eddie" after Baker; and

10 Whereas Edward D. Baker, as a Representative from Illinois to the United States Congress
11 (1845-1847), enthusiastically supported the acquisition of Oregon as a territory, and later as a state;
12 and

13 Whereas Edward D. Baker served with distinction in the Black Hawk, Mexican and American
14 Civil Wars as a leader of volunteers and a patriot in the cause of freedom and the Union; and

15 Whereas Edward D. Baker moved to the new state of California to build a law practice and a
16 career of public service, and then accepted an invitation to move to the new state of Oregon to help
17 establish government here; and

18 Whereas arriving in the winter of 1859, and working strategically across party lines, Edward
19 D. Baker was elected one of the first United States Senators from Oregon in 1860, at the same time
20 that his friend Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th President of the United States; and

21 Whereas Edward D. Baker, a close personal friend and one-time political opponent, became an
22 outspoken political supporter of Abraham Lincoln for more than 25 years, introducing Lincoln at
23 his presidential inauguration in 1861; and

24 Whereas Edward D. Baker, a strong abolitionist and advocate for the Union while he was in the
25 United States Senate, chose to take a commission as Colonel of Volunteers rather than the rank of
26 General, which was due him for his service and valor in the military prior to becoming Senator, and
27 joined the Army of the Potomac in the field to serve the cause of freedom and the Union; and

28 Whereas Colonel Edward D. Baker died in the Battle of Balls Bluff on October 21, 1861, while
29 leading a charge to drive back Confederate skirmishers, and in so doing was the only sitting member

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 of Congress to die in the cause of freedom during the Civil War; and

2 Whereas President Abraham Lincoln’s son Willie wrote a poem about Baker, published in the
3 Washington, D.C. newspapers, with the first line that reads “There was no patriot like Baker” and
4 Lincoln himself gave a “warm and glowing sketch of Baker’s eloquence, full of generous admiration,
5 and showing how he loved his old friend”; and

6 Whereas Baker County, Oregon, and Baker City are named after this patriot who gave his full
7 measure in the cause of freedom for all Americans and the preservation of our great Union; and

8 Whereas life-size statues of Edward D. Baker, commissioned in 1872, can be seen in the United
9 States Capitol and the Capitol of the State of California; and

10 Whereas 2011 marks the bicentennial of Edward Dickinson Baker’s birth on February 24, 1811,
11 and the sesquicentennial of his tragic death on October 21, 1861, in the Battle of Balls Bluff during
12 the Civil War; now, therefore,

13 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

14 **SECTION 1.** **The Legislative Assembly designates February 24th of each year as Edward**
15 **Dickinson Baker Day in Oregon to commemorate the life service and sacrifice of this hero**
16 **of Oregon and the United States of America.**

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