

## **Enzi follows in Thomas' boot prints**

By Staff

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WASHINGTON D.C. – In a move that could be described as a valentine to the late Sen. Craig Thomas, Sen. Mike Enzi has introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate to designate Saturday, July 26, 2008, as “National Day of the Cowboy.”

For the past three years, Thomas – a cowboy himself – honored the heritage of his home state and the West by sponsoring a resolution to name the fourth Saturday in July “National Day of the Cowboy.” The date coincides each year with Cheyenne Frontier Days. This year, in honor of Thomas’s legacy, Enzi is continuing the tradition by introducing the Senate resolution.

“Acknowledging both the historical significance of the cowboy in pioneering the West and the contemporary cowboy’s contributions to our country was an important cause to Craig. Each year he worked to gain national recognition for this enduring American icon with his ‘National Day of the Cowboy’ resolution,” said Enzi.

“It is with great respect and gratitude for the work that Craig accomplished on behalf of Wyoming that we continue with the precedent he set and stand behind this tradition he established. I hope my colleagues will take this opportunity to honor both the contributions of the American cowboy and the legacy of Sen. Craig Thomas by passing this resolution.”

Thomas, whose family owned and operated a dude ranch near Yellowstone while he was growing up, first sought to nationally recognize the spirit and work of the American cowboy by introducing the original “National Day of the American Cowboy” resolution in May of 2005. With Thomas’s support, the resolution passed Congress, officially designating July 23, 2005, as the first “National Day of the American Cowboy.”

Since then, Thomas led National Day of the Cowboy efforts each year, and today, the celebration has grown to encompass daylong events nationwide. The annual celebration is backed by President George W. Bush, who has acknowledged the day every year with the issuing of an official presidential statement.

Fifteen U.S. senators have signed on as co-sponsors of the resolution this year, including Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo.

“The Cowboy is the symbol of Wyoming. It is our state’s icon, representing our history and way of life. The people of Wyoming embody the Cowboy spirit,” Barrasso said. “The National Day of the Cowboy holds a special place in Wyoming’s and my heart.”

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., also introduced an identical resolution in the House today, the first time such a measure has been introduced in the House.