**A Resolution for Informational Briefing by the Province III Synod on May 2, 2022**

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**Resolution #D013**

**A Resolution to Establish *Lift Every Voice and Sing* as The National Hymn**

Resolved, the House \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that this 80th General Convention hereby direct and encourage that Congress amend Title 36, United States Code, to establish the composition known as "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as the national hymnof the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that this 80th General Convention direct, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council refer this Resolution to the Office of Government Relations, so that it may take all actions necessary to accomplish the intentions and purposes of this Resolution.

**Explanation:**

The poet and civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson is celebrated on the Episcopal *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*calendar date of June 25. James and his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, both American citizens, wrote “Lift Every Voice and Sing” in celebration of the February 12, 1900, anniversary of the birth of the 16th President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln. “Lift Every Voice and Sing” is an inspirational celebration and triumph of the human spirit over adversity. For over 100 years “Lift Every Voice and Sing” has been known as the Black national anthem. On January 13, 2021, South Carolina Representative James Clyburn proposed HR 301 - To amend title 36, United States Code, to establish the composition known as "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as the national hymnof the United States; thereby, giving it a special place as a “national hymn” alongside the official United States National Anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner”.

Clyburn stated: “To make it a national hymn, I think, would be an act of bringing the country together. It would say to people, “You aren’t singing a separate national anthem, you are singing the country’s national hymn,” He added: “The gesture itself would be an act of healing. Everybody can identify with that song. It would help unite the country in a time of reckoning with its history of racial turmoil.”

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/301/>