

City of Buffalo

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

- WHEREAS, One hundred and fifty years ago the city of Buffalo, along with the global community, celebrated the centennial of an eminent scientist of his day: Alexander von Humboldt (born September 14, 1769 in Berlin in Prussia). The 1869 Buffalo celebration, organized by the local German community and the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, was attended by 5,000 people with speeches given by several dignitaries, including President Millard Fillmore. The naming of the city's original Humboldt Parkway, as well as the former named Humboldt Park, and the Humboldt Basin are, in part, a legacy of that celebration; and
- WHEREAS, Humboldt was a major figure in the science of his day, as a result more places, species and features are named after this individual than anyone else in the world. His research laid the hidden foundation of many of our natural sciences. Charles Darwin maintained a collection of Humboldt's publications aboard the 'Beagle'. Upon his visit to the United States in 1804 he met with leading scientists of the country, as well as with President Jefferson. Humboldt's crowning achievement was the publication of the multiple volume publication, titled 'Kosmos'— presenting the universe in a single work; and
- WHEREAS, Humboldt's views were enlightened about two societal issues, recognizing the delicate connection between human activity and nature, warning that humans had the power to manipulate nature – a radical concept for his time. And his recognition of the evils of slavery are well documented; and
- WHEREAS, On the day after Buffalo's Centennial celebration in 1869, it was written in a local newspaper "It is a curious query whether the records we're making to-day...will be a mere matter of curiosity to the masses who will bask in the light of another century's increase of knowledge. What will they think of our opinions of Humboldt..." and
- WHEREAS, Festivities surrounding the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Humboldt's birth, organized by numerous local organizations, will take place in Buffalo and surrounding communities over the late summer and early fall of 2019; and
- WHEREAS, The German American community, under the umbrella of the 'Federation of German-American Societies of Buffalo and Vicinity', and the Buffalo Museum of Science (Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences), having organized the original Centennial celebration, are once again assisting in the festivities, and
- WHEREAS, Buffalo has a sister city relationship with Dortmund, Germany and a Buffalo Dortmund Sister City Delegation trip to Dortmund will take place in May of this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, BYRON W. BROWN, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2019 as

Alexander von Humboldt Day

in the City of Buffalo and join my fellow citizens in honoring Alexander von Humboldt, on the 250th anniversary of his birth.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Seal of the
City of Buffalo to be
affixed this 14th day
of September, 2019

Byron W. Brown
BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR