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November 25, 1996

The Honorable Trent Lott  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC

Dear Senator Lott:

I am a Mississippian of Scottish descent and join with a number of Scottish-American organizations to request your assistance in introducing legislation to enact **April 6, 1997**, as the first **Tartan Day** to be celebrated nationwide to honor the millions of Scottish Americans and their contributions to our great country.

It is a list that includes Patrick Henry, John Paul Jones, Samuel F.B. Morse, Robert Fulton, John Muir, Andrew Mellon, Andrew Carnegie, Gilbert Stuart and Alexander Graham Bell (whose birth in 1847 will be observed on the 150th anniversary in 1997). Scottish-Americans have left their mark as pioneers and innovators in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture and the arts. These endeavors reflect the important contributions Scottish-Americans have made to the history and development of the United States.

April 6 has a special significance. It is the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath - the Scottish Declaration of Independence signed on April 6, 1320. The document includes these inspirational lines: "...we fight not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, but for freedom alone, which no good man gives up, except with his life." A keen reawakening of pride in Scottish heritage in recent years adds additional momentum for our desire for a **Tartan Day** beginning in 1997.

Support for the observance of April 6 as **Tartan Day** - to be celebrated with activities planned around the country by the numerous Scottish organizations and the wearing of a "bit of tartan" by

Scottish-Americans - comes from many Scottish-American organizations, Clan societies, clubs and fraternal associations, and individual Scottish-Americans representing literally millions of Americans nationwide.

It is with great pride in this ancestry that we respectfully request your assistance in designating April 6 as **Tartan Day**.

Respectfully submitted,



JoAnne R. Phipps

Individually and on behalf of the following organizations:

The Calendonian Foundation, Inc.	Association of Scottish Games and Festivals
The American-Scottish Foundation	<i>Scottish Life</i> Magazine
Council of Scottish Clans and Associations	<i>The Highlander</i> Magazine
Clans of Scotland, USA, Inc.	Scots Charitable Society of Boston
St. Andrew's Society in the City of Charleston, South Carolina	Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York
Illinois St. Andrews Society	Scottish Heritage, USA
Scottish Historic & Research Society of the Delaware Valley (Pennsylvania)	Scottish Society of Martha's Vineyard
Highland Light Scottish Society (Cape Cod)	

\* In 1988 the Federal of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia, Canada began their efforts to designate a single date nationwide to celebrate Tartan Day. April 6 is now recognized in all provinces of Canada as Tartan Day!

## *Chronology*

**1988**                    **The Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia, Canada began efforts to designate a single date nationwide - April 6 as Tartan Day.**

**March '96**            **Neil Fraser - Clans & Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) met with representatives of several major Scottish organizations in Sarasota, Florida, inspiring the U.S. effort.**

**Fall '96**              **On behalf of 15 major Scottish Organizations, a formal request was sent to the Honorable Trent Lott, Senator from Mississippi, and Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate to designate April 6 as Tartan Day. (Senator Lott is also of Scottish ancestry)**

**April 7, 1997**        **(April 6 on Sunday) By unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate, April 6, 1997, was designated Tartan Day and entered into the *Congressional Record*. The drive began in earnest to gain bi-partisan support of individual U.S. Senators to move a formal resolution through the Senate for an annual designation,**

**March 20, 1998**    **Senate Resolution 155 was passed designating April 6 of each year as Tartan Day in the United States to recognize the achievements and contributions of Scottish - Americans to the Nation.**

**April 6, 1998 and each year thereafter designated TARTAN DAY.**

**Established as result of the efforts of hundreds of individuals and organizations - especially the following:**

- The Caledonian Foundation, Inc.
- The Clans of Scotland, USA
- The American - Scottish Foundation
- Council of Scottish Clans & Associations
- Association of Scottish Games & Festivals
- Illinois St. Andrews Society
- *Scottish Life Magazine*
- *The Highlander Magazine*
- Scottish Heritage, USA
- The International Association of Tartan Studies