

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 368

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

Whereas the United States Capitol stands as a symbol of democracy, equality, and freedom to the entire world;

Whereas the year 2000 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of this historic structure for the first session of Congress to be held in the new Capital City;

Whereas slavery was not prohibited throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865;

Whereas previous to that date, African American slave labor was both legal and common in the District of Columbia and the adjoining States of Maryland and Virginia;

Whereas public records attest to the fact that African American slave labor was used in the construction of the United States Capitol;

Whereas public records further attest to the fact that the five-dollar-per-month payment for that African American slave labor was made directly to slave owners and not to the laborer; and

Whereas African Americans made significant contributions and fought bravely for freedom during the American Revolutionary War: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That—*

3            (1) the Speaker of the House of Representa-  
4            tives and the President pro tempore of the Senate  
5            shall establish a special task force to study the his-  
6            tory and contributions of these slave laborers in the  
7            construction of the United States Capitol; and

8            (2) such special task force shall recommend to  
9            the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the  
10          President pro tempore of the Senate an appropriate  
11          recognition for these slave laborers which could be  
12          displayed in a prominent location in the United  
13          States Capitol.

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