

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 130

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2000

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. DODD, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. L. CHAFEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

SEPTEMBER 15, 2000

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

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 Senate (the House of Representatives*
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

- 1 displayed in a prominent location in the United
- 2 States Capitol.

