

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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
12 displayed in a prominent location in the United
13 States Capitol.

Passed the Senate September 15, 2000.

Attest:

Secretary.

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 130

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.