

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 254

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2001

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Encouraging the people of the United States to celebrate the 300th anniversary of William Penn's Charter of Privileges, the 250th anniversary of the Liberty Bell, and the 225th anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Whereas William Penn was a distinguished statesman and a principled defender of human rights and religious liberties;

Whereas in 1701, William Penn wrote Charter of Privileges, which set a new standard for religious liberty that profoundly impacted the Nation's history and still provides an example for the world today;

Whereas religious freedom is still one of the most fragile liberties, and today, millions of people around the world are persecuted for their religious beliefs;

Whereas the year 2001 marks the 300th anniversary of the publication of Charter of Privileges;

Whereas the Liberty Bell was designed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Charter of Privileges and is a powerful reminder of the Nation’s commitment to freedom and justice;

Whereas the Liberty Bell became a defining symbol of the abolitionist movement, which sought to rid the Nation of slavery;

Whereas the year 2001 marks the 250th anniversary of the completion of the Liberty Bell; and

Whereas the year 2001 is also the 225th anniversary of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, which contains the immortal phrase: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights”: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) encourages the people of the United States
4 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of William Penn’s
5 Charter of Privileges, the 250th anniversary of the
6 Liberty Bell, and the 225th anniversary of the first
7 public reading of the Declaration of Independence;
8 and

1 (2) encourages the Nation's leaders to reaffirm
2 their commitment to promoting human rights and
3 religious freedom in the Nation and around the
4 world.

Passed the House of Representatives November 13,
2001.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.