

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1233

AMENDMENT

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

June 1, 2004.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1233) entitled “An Act to authorize assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “National Great Black*
3 *Americans Commemoration Act of 2004”.*

4 ***SEC. 2. FINDINGS.***

5 *Congress finds the following:*

6 *(1) Black Americans have served honorably in*
7 *Congress, in senior executive branch positions, in the*
8 *law, the judiciary, and other fields, yet their record*
9 *of service is not well known by the public, is not in-*
10 *cluded in school history lessons, and is not adequately*
11 *presented in the Nation’s museums.*

12 *(2) The Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. in*
13 *Baltimore, Maryland, a nonprofit organization, is the*
14 *Nation’s first wax museum presenting the history of*

1 *great Black Americans, including those who have*
2 *served in Congress, in senior executive branch posi-*
3 *tions, in the law, the judiciary, and other fields, as*
4 *well as others who have made significant contribu-*
5 *tions to benefit the Nation.*

6 *(3) The Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc.*
7 *plans to expand its existing facilities to establish the*
8 *National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice*
9 *Learning Center, which is intended to serve as a na-*
10 *tional museum and center for presentation of wax fig-*
11 *ures and related interactive educational exhibits por-*
12 *traying the history of great Black Americans.*

13 *(4) The wax medium has long been recognized as*
14 *a unique and artistic means to record human history*
15 *through preservation of the faces and personages of*
16 *people of prominence, and historically, wax exhibits*
17 *were used to commemorate noted figures in ancient*
18 *Egypt, Babylon, Greece, and Rome, in medieval Eu-*
19 *rope, and in the art of the Italian renaissance.*

20 *(5) The Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. was*
21 *founded in 1983 by Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin,*
22 *2 Baltimore educators who used their personal sav-*
23 *ings to purchase wax figures, which they displayed in*
24 *schools, churches, shopping malls, and festivals in the*
25 *mid-Atlantic region.*

1 (6) *The goal of the Martins was to test public re-*
2 *action to the idea of a Black history wax museum*
3 *and so positive was the response over time that the*
4 *museum has been heralded by the public and the*
5 *media as a national treasure.*

6 (7) *The museum has been the subject of feature*
7 *stories by CNN, the Wall Street Journal, the*
8 *Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, the New York*
9 *Times, the Chicago Sun Times, the Dallas Morning*
10 *News, the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, the Afro*
11 *American Newspaper, Crisis, Essence Magazine, and*
12 *others.*

13 (8) *More than 300,000 people from across the*
14 *Nation visit the museum annually.*

15 (9) *The new museum will carry on the time hon-*
16 *ored artistic tradition of the wax medium; in par-*
17 *ticular, it will recognize the significant value of this*
18 *medium to commemorate and appreciate great Black*
19 *Americans whose faces and personages are not widely*
20 *recognized.*

21 (10) *The museum will employ the most skilled*
22 *artisans in the wax medium, use state-of-the-art*
23 *interactive exhibition technologies, and consult with*
24 *museum professionals throughout the Nation, and its*
25 *exhibits will feature the following:*

1 (A) *Blacks who have served in the Senate*
2 *and House of Representatives of the United*
3 *States, including those who represented constitu-*
4 *encies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana,*
5 *Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,*
6 *and Virginia during the 19th century.*

7 (B) *Blacks who have served in the judici-*
8 *ary, in the Department of Justice, as prominent*
9 *attorneys, in law enforcement, and in the strug-*
10 *gle for equal rights under the law.*

11 (C) *Black veterans of various military en-*
12 *gagements, including the Buffalo Soldiers and*
13 *Tuskegee Airmen, and the role of Blacks in the*
14 *settlement of the western United States.*

15 (D) *Blacks who have served in senior execu-*
16 *tive branch positions, including members of*
17 *Presidents' Cabinets, Assistant Secretaries and*
18 *Deputy Secretaries of Federal agencies, and*
19 *Presidential advisers.*

20 (E) *Other Blacks whose accomplishments*
21 *and contributions to human history during the*
22 *last millennium and to the Nation through more*
23 *than 400 years are exemplary, including Black*
24 *educators, authors, scientists, inventors, athletes,*
25 *clergy, and civil rights leaders.*

1 (11) *The museum plans to develop collaborative*
 2 *programs with other museums, serve as a clearing-*
 3 *house for training, technical assistance, and other re-*
 4 *sources involving use of the wax medium, and sponsor*
 5 *traveling exhibits to provide enriching museum expe-*
 6 *riences for communities throughout the Nation.*

7 (12) *The museum has been recognized by the*
 8 *State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore as a*
 9 *preeminent facility for presenting and interpreting*
 10 *Black history, using the wax medium in its highest*
 11 *artistic form.*

12 (13) *The museum is located in the heart of an*
 13 *area designated as an empowerment zone, and is con-*
 14 *sidered to be a catalyst for economic and cultural im-*
 15 *provements in this economically disadvantaged area.*

16 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX**
 17 **MUSEUM AND JUSTICE LEARNING CENTER.**

18 (a) *ASSISTANCE FOR MUSEUM.*—*Subject to subsection*
 19 *(b), the Attorney General, acting through the Office of Jus-*
 20 *tice Programs of the Department of Justice, shall, from*
 21 *amounts made available under subsection (c), make a grant*
 22 *to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. in Baltimore,*
 23 *Maryland, to be used only for carrying out programs relat-*
 24 *ing to civil rights and juvenile justice through the National*
 25 *Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center.*

1 **(b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.**—*To receive a grant under*
2 *subsection (a), the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc. shall*
3 *submit to the Attorney General a proposal for the use of*
4 *the grant, which shall include detailed plans for the pro-*
5 *grams referred to in subsection (a).*

6 **(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—*There is*
7 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
8 *\$5,000,000, to remain available through the end of fiscal*
9 *year 2009.*

Attest:

Clerk.