

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 209

Recognizing and honoring Woodstock, Vermont, native Hiram Powers for his extraordinary and enduring contributions to American sculpture.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring Woodstock, Vermont, native Hiram Powers for his extraordinary and enduring contributions to American sculpture.

Whereas Hiram Powers is one of the preeminent artists in American sculpture;

Whereas Hiram Powers, in the words of the director and curator of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, was the artist who “put American sculpture on the map,” gaining international fame and providing unprecedented support for the notion of the United States as a country capable of producing artists equal to or better than their international counterparts;

Whereas Powers’ 1844 sculpture “Greek Slave” became, in the words of Powers biographer Richard Wunder, “a tell-

ing symbol” of freedom for Americans in the pre-Civil War years and remains unequaled in popularity among American sculptures;

Whereas Powers’ bust of President Andrew Jackson is widely considered the finest portrait ever sculpted of the president, as well as one of the noblest examples of portraiture ever created by an American sculptor;

Whereas the Congress of the United States, in recognition of Powers’ extraordinary talents, awarded him commissions to execute the statues of John Marshall, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson that stand today in the United States Capitol;

Whereas Powers preserved through his sculpture the memory of numerous other great Americans, including George Washington, John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Martin Van Buren, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow;

Whereas Powers was born in 1805 in Woodstock, Vermont, and happily spent his early years in that town;

Whereas throughout his life, Powers held sacred the memories of his childhood in Woodstock and drew upon these memories as inspiration for his work, saying, “dreams often take me back to Woodstock and set me down upon the green hills”; and

Whereas the citizens of Woodstock, Vermont, are preparing to celebrate the bicentennial of Hiram Powers’ birth with exhibits, symposiums, and other commemorative activities: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes and honors
- 2 Woodstock, Vermont, native Hiram Powers for his ex-

1 traordinary and enduring contributions to American sculp-
2 ture.

