

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 522

Recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Freedom Schooner Amistad's 14-month 2007 Atlantic Freedom Tour, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multi-cultural dialogue, education, and cooperation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2007

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. COURTNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Freedom Schooner Amistad's 14-month 2007 Atlantic Freedom Tour, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multi-cultural dialogue, education, and cooperation.

Whereas the 1807 Act of the British Parliament was the first major initiative that abolished the slave trade and began the march to end slavery;

Whereas, in 1839, 53 Africans were illegally kidnapped from Sierra Leone and sold into the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas the captives were brought to Havana, Cuba aboard the Portuguese vessel *Tecora*, where they were fraudulently classified as native-born Cuban slaves;

Whereas the African captives were sold to Spaniards Jose Ruiz and Pedro Montez, who transferred them to the coastal cargo schooner, *La Amistad*;

Whereas the African captives, while being transferred from Havana, Cuba up the coast in the *Amistad*, revolted after 3 days and ordered the schooner head east back to their native Africa;

Whereas, on the evening of the rebellion, the *Amistad* was secretly directed back west and up the coast of North America, where after 2 months the Africans were seized and arrested in New London, Connecticut;

Whereas the captives were jailed and awaited trial in New Haven, Connecticut, and the case became historic when former President John Quincy Adams argued on behalf of the enslaved Africans before the United States Supreme Court and won their freedom;

Whereas, in 2007, the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* will embark on its first transatlantic voyage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade; and

Whereas the *Amistad* case represents an opportunity to call to public attention the evils of slavery, the struggle for freedom, and the restoration of human dignity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the House of Representatives—

1 (A) recognizes the historical and edu-
2 cational significance of the Freedom Schooner
3 Amistad’s Atlantic Freedom Tour; and

4 (B) encourages the people of the United
5 States to learn about United States history and
6 better understand the experiences that have
7 shaped the United States; and

8 (2) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
9 tives that preserving the legacy of the Amistad
10 should be regarded as a means in fostering multi-
11 cultural dialogue, education, and cooperation.

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