

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 125

Expressing the sense of Congress that Congress encourages people throughout the Nation to hold an annual commemorative event on or near August 20th honoring Slavery Remembrance Day, featuring its Official Remembrance Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 9, 2024

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that Congress encourages people throughout the Nation to hold an annual commemorative event on or near August 20th honoring Slavery Remembrance Day, featuring its Official Remembrance Program.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “Original Slavery
5 Remembrance Day Commemorative Remembrance Pro-
6 gram Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATIVE**
2 **EVENTS.**

3 (a) ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO HOLD EVENTS.—

4 (1) CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress
5 that Congress, in consultation with the Library of
6 Congress and the Smithsonian Institution, encour-
7 ages the holding of an annual commemorative event
8 on an appropriate day at a location in the United
9 States Capitol Complex to revere, honor, and re-
10 member the victims of slavery.

11 (2) OTHERS.—Congress encourages all people
12 of good will throughout the Nation to hold an an-
13 nual commemorative event on an appropriate day to
14 revere, honor, and remember the victims of slavery.

15 (b) LOCATION OF EVENTS.—It is the sense of Con-
16 gress that the annual commemorative event described in
17 this section should be held at a location that can provide
18 an appropriate degree of solemnity and dignity for such
19 an occasion.

20 (c) FEATURED PROGRAM AT EVENT.—It is the sense
21 of Congress that an annual commemorative event de-
22 scribed in this section should feature the Remembrance
23 Program recommended in section 3 or a variation of such
24 Program.

25 (d) PURPOSE.—The commemorative event described
26 in this section is designed to serve as a memorial to the

1 victims of slavery, to educate the public about the histor-
 2 ical reality as well as the lasting impact of slavery, and
 3 to inspire continued commitment to not only fight contem-
 4 porary racial injustice and inequality, but also to continue
 5 the struggle for reverence and justice for the enslaved
 6 whose lives were sacrificed to make America great.

7 **SEC. 3. REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) CONTENTS.—The Remembrance Program rec-
 9 ommended in this section is as follows:

10 “Friends, thank you for your participation. If
 11 you can, please join me by standing and placing
 12 your right hand over your heart to indicate heartfelt
 13 sorrow for the millions who suffered the horrors of
 14 slavery.

15 “Over the next few minutes, we will recall var-
 16 ious well documented aspects of the experiences of
 17 America’s enslaved.

18 “At the end of each of these summarized expe-
 19 riences, I will say the words ‘we must’:

20 “Immediately after I say ‘we must’, I would like
 21 you (each of you) to, in unison, say ‘always remem-
 22 ber’.

23 “Let’s begin.

24 “To prevent the evils of slavery from being re-
 25 peated, we must:

1 “Always remember.

2 “To commemorate the suffering and the lives
3 lost because of slavery, we must:

4 “Always remember.

5 “For the first 20 enslaved Africans who arrived
6 in the British colonies at Point Comfort near what
7 is now Norfolk Virginia on August 20, 1619, we
8 must:

9 “Always remember.

10 “For the 12 million humans from all walks of
11 life whose lives were stolen from them when they
12 were kidnapped from Africa and forced into slavery,
13 we must:

14 “Always remember.

15 “For the Africans forced into slavery by other
16 Africans, we must:

17 “Always remember.

18 “For the approximately 2 million human beings
19 who suffered the deadly middle passage and did not
20 survive the horrific voyage to America, we must:

21 “Always remember.

22 “For the men, women, and children on slave
23 ships, many of whom were kept naked, packed close
24 together with many shackled and chained, we must:

25 “Always remember.

1 “For enslaved human beings who often worked
2 from sunup to after sundown, 6 to 7 days a week,
3 often without food, we must:

4 “Always remember.

5 “For the mothers and fathers who were sepa-
6 rated from their children and sold on the auction
7 blocks, we must:

8 “Always remember.

9 “For liberators such as Nat Turner, who fought
10 to free enslaved people; who lost their lives in the
11 fight for freedom and justice, we must:

12 “Always remember.

13 “For the tens of thousands of enslaved people
14 who risked their lives in search of freedom on the
15 Underground Railroad, we must:

16 “Always remember.

17 “For liberators such as Harriet Tubman, who
18 escaped slavery and dedicated her life to returning
19 to the South no less than 13 times liberating
20 enslaved men women and children, we must:

21 “Always remember.

22 “For the liberators such as John Brown, Presi-
23 dent Abraham Lincoln, and countless others of all
24 hues who lived and died combating the horrific insti-
25 tution of slavery, we must:

1 “Always remember.

2 “To commemorate the centuries of suffering,
3 the years of tears shed, the history of hearts broken,
4 the brutality of blood spilled, and the grieving over
5 lives lost because of slavery we must:

6 “Always remember.

7 “Yet, in the spirit of righteous remembrance
8 imbued with love for our country that hasn’t always
9 loved its brothers and sisters of African ancestry, we
10 have to acknowledge that:

11 “In spite of slavery and despite its invidious
12 offsprings: mass lynchings, Black codes, convict leas-
13 ing, lawful segregation, and institutional racism, Af-
14 rican Americans have come a laudably long way.

15 “From our arrival on slave ships to our ascen-
16 sion to judgeships,

17 “From surviving the Middle Passage to thriving
18 among the masses,

19 “From shackled in chains to creating societal
20 change,

21 “From sitting in the back of buses to owning
22 bus companies,

23 “From having no house to residents in the
24 White House,

1 “From painfully picking cotton, to proudly
2 picking Presidents,

3 “From adult males and females being dis-
4 respectfully called boy and girl to being respectfully
5 presented as Mr. President and Madam Vice Presi-
6 dent.

7 “Laudably, the truth be told, although we have
8 come a long way, we still have a way to go.

9 “In closing, let us resolve that as we forge for-
10 ward we will commemorate our past and embrace
11 our destiny, always remembering the hardships peo-
12 ple of African heritage have endured in tandem with
13 the victories won in spite of the seemingly invincible
14 challenges emanating from insidious slavery and its
15 invidious progenies!

16 “Through it all, we must:

17 “Always remember.

18 “We must:

19 “Always remember.

20 “We must:

21 “Always remember.

22 “If you are able, I would ask that you partici-
23 pate in a moment of silent solemnity at noon on Au-
24 gust 20th wherever you may be.

1 “During this moment of silence, wherever you
2 are, place your right hand over your heart and with
3 a moment of silence, give thoughts to our economic
4 foundational mothers and father, to the millions who
5 toiled and lost their lives under slavery, and lovingly
6 utter the phrase ‘Always remember.’.”

7 (b) RECITATION.—The Remembrance Program set
8 forth in subsection (a), or some variation thereof, should
9 be recited by the leader of the event, except that each in-
10 stance of “Always remember.” is to be recited by the audi-
11 ence.

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