

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1461

The Original Resolution honoring the life, public service, and legacy of the Honorable Congressman Craig Anthony Washington, a distinguished legislator, superior attorney, civil rights advocate, and champion for justice.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2026

Mr. GREEN of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

The Original Resolution honoring the life, public service, and legacy of the Honorable Congressman Craig Anthony Washington, a distinguished legislator, superior attorney, civil rights advocate, and champion for justice.

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This resolution may be cited as the “Original Resolu-
3 tion Honoring the Life, Public Service, and Legacy of the
4 Honorable Craig Anthony Washington”.

5 SEC. 2. HONORING CRAIG WASHINGTON.

6 Whereas this original resolution honors the life, pub-
7 lic service, and legacy of the Honorable Congressman
8 Craig Anthony Washington, a distinguished legislator, su-

1 perior attorney, civil rights advocate, human rights war-
2 rior, and champion of justice for all, in a society emerging
3 from the injustice of lawful racism (a progeny of slavery),
4 masquerading as segregation;

5 Whereas the Honorable Craig Anthony Washington
6 was born on October 12, 1941, in Longview, Texas, to
7 Roy Washington, a United States Marine, and Azalea
8 Washington, a mother who taught him to read when he
9 was only three years young;

10 Whereas the Washington family moved to Houston,
11 Texas, in search of a better life;

12 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington attended
13 historically Black schools, including Brock Elementary,
14 Fidelity Junior High, and Fidelity Manor Senior High
15 School, from which he graduated in 1958 at the age of
16 16;

17 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington attended
18 the historically Black Prairie View A&M University, grad-
19 uated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in
20 1966, and dreamed of becoming a physician;

21 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington decided to
22 enter law school temporarily until he could gain accept-
23 ance to Meharry Medical College;

24 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington enrolled in
25 the historically Black Texas Southern University Law

1 School in 1966 and graduated in 1969, first in his class
2 with honors;

3 Whereas, while in law school, the Honorable Craig
4 Washington served as president of the Student Bar Asso-
5 ciation, captain of the Moot Court Team, and research as-
6 sistant to the Dean of the Law School, receiving numerous
7 awards and consistently earning a place on the Dean's
8 List;

9 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington served as
10 Assistant Dean as well as Assistant Professor of Law and
11 taught a course on legislation at Texas Southern Univer-
12 sity Law School from 1969 to 1970;

13 Whereas, as a result of his law school experiences at
14 Texas Southern University Law School, the Honorable
15 Craig Washington realized he could best serve society by
16 working within the legal profession; his dreams of becom-
17 ing a physician evaporated;

18 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington entered
19 private practice in Houston and became a founding part-
20 ner of Washington & Randle, which later became Wash-
21 ington, Lampley, Evans & Braquet;

22 Whereas, in 1972, the Honorable Craig Washington
23 was elected to the Texas House of Representatives as part
24 of the 63d Legislature to represent the 86th District of
25 Harris County;

1 Whereas Texas Monthly selected the Honorable Craig
2 Washington as one of the Ten Best Legislators in 1973,
3 1979, and 1981;

4 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington served five
5 terms in the Texas House of Representatives, where he
6 chaired committees addressing criminal justice and human
7 services and became known as one of Texas's most gifted
8 legislative orators and a forceful advocate for civil rights
9 and racial justice;

10 Whereas, in 1982, the Honorable Craig Washington
11 was elected to the Texas State Senate, representing Dis-
12 trict 13, where he continued his advocacy for civil rights,
13 criminal justice reform, and equal political representation,
14 and later served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

15 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington estab-
16 lished himself as a distinguished criminal defense attorney
17 and a fierce advocate for equal justice under the law;

18 Whereas, in 1985, the State Bar of Texas honored
19 the Honorable Craig Washington as Outstanding Criminal
20 Defense Lawyer of the Year;

21 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington became
22 one of the most prominent lawmakers championing civil
23 rights in Texas, seeking to increase the participation of
24 minorities and women in State government, supporting

1 Texas divestment from South Africa, and helping coordi-
2 nate Texas's response to the AIDS epidemic;

3 Whereas, following the tragic death of his longtime
4 friend and fellow freedom fighter, the Honorable Con-
5 gressman George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, the Honor-
6 able Craig Washington, a representative of the people (not
7 the establishment), was elected to represent Texas's 18th
8 Congressional District and was sworn in as a Member of
9 the United States House of Representatives on January
10 23, 1990;

11 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington's legal
12 background earned him appointments to the Committee
13 on the Judiciary, the Committee on Education and Labor,
14 as well as to Congressman Leland's seat on the Select
15 Committee on Hunger;

16 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington later
17 served as a member of the Committee on Energy and
18 Commerce during the 103d Congress;

19 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington drew upon
20 his experience as an attorney and civil rights advocate to
21 help shape Federal civil rights legislation, rejecting a
22 weakened compromise bill in 1990 and later supporting
23 the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which strengthened protec-
24 tions against employment discrimination;

1 Whereas, as a member of the Judiciary Sub-
2 committee on Crime and Criminal Justice, the Honorable
3 Craig Washington opposed punitive measures in criminal
4 justice and introduced the Crime Prevention and Criminal
5 Justice Reform Act, which promoted alternative sen-
6 tencing, youth crime prevention programs, and community
7 policing initiatives;

8 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington also spon-
9 sored the Family Unity Demonstration Project, which
10 sought to locate community correctional facilities near the
11 parents and children of the incarcerated to maintain fam-
12 ily unity;

13 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington dem-
14 onstrated a willingness to take politically difficult posi-
15 tions, including opposing Federal projects when he be-
16 lieved that those resources should instead support edu-
17 cation, health care, and social services;

18 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington displayed
19 uncommon courage when he opposed the North American
20 Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), arguing that the agree-
21 ment would lead to the loss of jobs in his congressional
22 district;

23 Whereas, in 1991, the Honorable Craig Washington
24 opposed the authorization for the use of military force in
25 the Persian Gulf and instead introduced a resolution call-

1 ing upon Congress to exercise its constitutional authority
2 through a formal declaration of war;

3 Whereas, during his service in Congress, the Honor-
4 able Craig Washington advocated for civil rights and
5 criminal justice reform, including legislation promoting
6 crime prevention, alternative sentencing, community polic-
7 ing, and policies to help incarcerated parents remain con-
8 nected with their children;

9 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington earned a
10 reputation as an independent-minded and principled pub-
11 lic servant who was willing to challenge prevailing political
12 opinion and defend his convictions with exceptional intel-
13 lect and eloquence;

14 Whereas, angered by his loyalty to his constituents
15 in tandem with his refusal to kiss the ring or bend a knee
16 to the establishment, the establishment empowered a well-
17 funded, successful hidden-hand removal movement;

18 Whereas, after leaving Congress, the Honorable
19 Craig Washington returned to the practice of law in Hous-
20 ton and continued his career as an advocate and freedom-
21 fighting attorney;

22 Whereas the Honorable Craig Washington's more
23 than two decades of public service in the Texas Legislature
24 and the United States Congress left a lasting legacy of
25 bold advocacy for civil rights, human rights, equal justice

1 for all, criminal justice reform, and meaningful political
2 representation; and

3 Whereas, blessed with uncommon courage coupled
4 with superior intellect, the Honorable Craig Washington
5 effected great societal change, in spite of the racism insti-
6 tutionalized in the norms of society: Now, therefore, be
7 it

8 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

9 (1) honors the life, legacy, and distinguished
10 public service of the Honorable Congressman Craig
11 Washington;

12 (2) recognizes his historic contributions to civil
13 rights, human rights, equal justice under law, crimi-
14 nal justice reform, and representative government of,
15 by, and for the people; and

16 (3) expresses its respect for the Honorable
17 Craig Washington's lasting contributions to the City
18 of Houston, the State of Texas, the United States,
19 and the worldwide movement for peace, justice, pros-
20 perity, and dignity for all.

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