

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 114

Expressing the Sense of the Congress with respect to Paul Leroy Robeson.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2001

Mr. RANGEL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the Sense of the Congress with respect to Paul
Leroy Robeson.

Whereas April 9, 2001, marked the 103rd anniversary of the
birth of Paul Leroy Robeson, a great actor, athlete,
scholar, author, humanitarian, and fighter for civil rights
for people throughout the world;

Whereas Paul Leroy Robeson's life of achievement made him
truly one of the 20th century's Renaissance figures and
a role model for youth;

Whereas Paul Leroy Robeson received an academic scholar-
ship at Rutgers University where he was All-American in
football, class valedictorian, and Phi Beta Kappa, and
held four varsity letters, and he later graduated from law
school at Columbia University;

Whereas Paul Leroy Robeson was a lawyer, author, world-renowned theatrical performer, and singer who spoke 20 languages and sang songs in over 50 languages all around the globe;

Whereas, with the rise of fascism in Europe, Paul Leroy Robeson's political consciousness grew and he donated proceeds from his stage performances to Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler in 1933 and traveled to Spain the next year to support the anti-fascist forces supporting the Abraham Lincoln Brigade;

Whereas in our country Paul Leroy Robeson spoke out strongly for labor and civil rights and at the height of the McCarthy hysteria had his passport revoked for eight years because of his outspoken opposition to racism and colonialism;

Whereas the persecution which Paul Leroy Robeson suffered during the McCarthy Era represents the types of actions the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were designed to prevent; and

Whereas Paul Leroy Robeson was denied this protection, sacrificed his fame and fortune, and endured great personal hardship for his steadfast principle: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) Paul Leroy Robeson was never accused nor
4 convicted of any crime against the United States
5 and that his reputation should be fully restored;

1 (2) Paul Leroy Robeson should be recognized
2 internationally as a pivotal 20th century figure and
3 fighter in the struggle for human rights; and

4 (3) the President should take appropriate meas-
5 ures to encourage the celebration and remembrance
6 of his achievements.

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