

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 471

Congratulating the people of Haiti on the bicentennial of their independence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2003

Mr. RUSH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the people of Haiti on the bicentennial of
their independence.

Whereas January 1, 2004, marks the bicentennial of the
independence of the Republic of Haiti;

Whereas the House of Representatives pay tribute to the peo-
ple of Haiti the first Black Republic in the world and the
only country to gain its freedom from a successful slave
revolt;

Whereas the House of Representatives honors the “slave sol-
diers” of Haiti, who fought alongside the United States
Army at the battle of Savannah in 1778, for their re-
markable spirit and courage;

Whereas the victory of the Haitian Army over the powerful
French Army on November 18, 1803, under the direction

of Napoleon Bonaparte, has come to signify that all men are born free;

Whereas the Louisiana purchase in 1803 is a direct result of the victory of the Haitian army over the French Army, a defeat that weakened the French state;

Whereas the successful Haitian Revolution on January 1, 1804, had planted the seed to eradicate slavery and encourage the pursuit of equal rights for mankind;

Whereas the Republic of Haiti devoted a great deal of its resources to assist many countries of the Western Hemisphere, particularly those in Latin America, overcome colonization;

Whereas the Republic of Haiti has paid a great price, in that thousands of people lost their lives and the young nation was imposed an indemnity of 150,000,000 francs for refusing to accept the existence of slavery as a humane condition; and

Whereas the Haitian Revolution ignited a movement toward independence throughout the world in the 19th and 20th centuries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives encour-
 2 ages all of the citizens of the United States of America
 3 to join the people of the Republic of Haiti in celebrating
 4 their bicentennial of independence and to recognize the
 5 courage and spirit of the Republic of Haiti for having
 6 spearheaded the battle for human rights.

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