

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 17

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2003

Mr. SANTORUM submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing a special task force to recommend an appropriate recognition for the slave laborers who worked on the construction of the United States Capitol.

Whereas the United States Capitol stands as a symbol of democracy, equality, and freedom to the entire world;

Whereas the year 2003 marks the 203d anniversary of the opening of this historic structure for the first session of Congress to be held in the new Capital City;

Whereas slavery was not prohibited throughout the United States until the ratification of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865;

Whereas prior to that date, African American slave labor was both legal and common in the District of Columbia and the adjoining States of Maryland and Virginia;

Whereas public records attest to the fact that African American slave labor was used in the construction of the United States Capitol;

Whereas public records further attest to the fact that the five-dollar-per-month payment for that African American slave labor was made directly to slave owners and not to the laborer; and

Whereas African Americans made significant contributions and fought bravely for freedom during the American Revolutionary War: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) the Majority Leader of the Senate and the
4 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall establish
5 a special task force to include the Historian of
6 the Senate, the Historian of the House of Representatives,
7 the Architect of the Capitol, and the
8 Librarian of Congress, to study the history and contributions
9 of these slave laborers in the construction
10 of the United States Capitol; and

11 (2) such special task force shall produce a summary
12 document of the contributions of slave laborers
13 and available research for the public, and shall recommend
14 to the Majority Leader of the Senate and
15 the Speaker of the House of Representatives an appropriate
16 recognition for these slave laborers which

- 1 could be displayed in a prominent location in, or
- 2 near, the United States Capitol.

