

Second, given the significant contributions of enslaved African Americans in the building of the U.S. Capitol, a marker in Emancipation Hall is an appropriate tribute to such efforts.

The marker was recommended by the Slave Labor Task Force Working Group, which also recommended designating the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center as Emancipation Hall.

This marker, which is to include stone quarried by these slaves, will ensure that this part of the story of the Capitol's construction is told.

When visitors stand in Emancipation Hall and view the commemorative marker, they will be reminded of the significant role that slaves played in the construction of the U.S. Capitol, thereby ensuring that the legacy of these slaves will live on.

Finally, by acknowledging that enslaved African Americans played a major role in building the Nation's Capitol, we recommit ourselves to the pursuit of freedom and democracy for all Americans.

We recognize that, even today, there are some who have yet to realize all of the rights and privileges that are afforded through our Constitution and laws. Prejudice, discrimination, and inequities remain a reality.

However, by paying tribute to those enslaved African Americans who built our Nation's Capitol, we understand that freedom and democracy are constantly evolving.

We recognize that we can commit ourselves to the advancement of these principles, knowing that those who toiled and labored in the very building that we stand in today, could not enjoy freedom and democracy for themselves.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 135, the resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to place a marker in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center which acknowledges the role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol, and for other purposes. I would like to thank my colleague and fellow Georgian, Representative JOHN LEWIS for introducing this important piece of legislation, as well as the co-sponsors.

I stand in support of this resolution because it recognizes the important contributions that African-American slaves have made to the establishment of this country, particularly the Capitol Building, which is the foundation of our country's government. It is in this very building where the biggest decisions of our country are made. Therefore, we can all imagine how important this structure really is to the wellbeing of our nation.

It has almost been 150 years since the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was ratified, which officially abolished slavery was passed within these same walls. It is in due time that slaves be recognized for the back breaking labor that they endured while building this great building that we now stand in. It was not for the crucial intervention of Philip Reid, an African-American slave foundry worker, the Statue of Freedom that sits on top of the Capitol Dome may not have existed. Reid figured out how to separate the 5-piece plaster model for casting when all others workers failed to figure out how this could be done.

The true purpose of this resolution is to draw recognition to the past, so that we can move on to a better future of race relations in America. There is no better time than now, than on the coat tails of one of the most his-

toric presidential elections in United States history. By no means is this resolution erasing or justifying slavery. Instead it shows America and the world the positive progression that our nation is making in its journey to ensure that all people be treated equally. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 135, I rise in strong support of this resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to place a marker in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center which acknowledges the role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol.

African Americans throughout the world continue to make remarkable contributions to their communities every single day. We must not disregard the hands that worked and the feet that toiled to build our Nation's Capitol. We must honor the contributions of the slaves who helped build this magnificent structure.

Mr. Speaker, when we look to the hands that shape and built this city, particularly this Capitol, we should no longer hang our heads in shame of slavery, but instead celebrate the people who are so often forgotten. We should appreciate and acknowledge the thousands of unnamed men and women who built this structure representing democracy, liberty, and freedom. Just last month, my colleagues in the Senate approved a resolution that apologized for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans. As the legislative branch, we have officially acknowledged the institution that barred hundreds of thousands from freedom, and with this resolution, we can begin to celebrate those slaves that physically helped to create this country.

The Capitol Visitor Center sees almost 3 million visitors annually. As they walk the halls and admire the architecture and statues, marveling at the rich history and stories that accompany them throughout the building, it is our responsibility to ensure that all slaves who helped build the Capitol have their stories told. In the Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall was named to help acknowledge the work of the slaves who toiled over the work of the Capitol and we must ensure that their stories are told for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I express my unwavering support for this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 135, recognizing the contributions of enslaved African Americans in building the United States Capitol.

This resolution will commission the Architect of the Capitol to create and place a historical marker in the Capitol Visitor Center made from the original government owned sandstone rocks that were quarried by slave labor, and removed from the Capitol building during a previous renovation.

Slavery played an important role in the foundation of this country, and slave labor was used extensively in the creation of many of the buildings that are home to our government. While we cannot rectify the sins of the past, nor thank slave laborers for their sacrifice, the contributions of these men and women should not go unnoticed.

It is important this plaque be prominently displayed for the thousands of visitors that come into the CVC. In order for these visitors to know the complete history of our Nation's

Capitol, they must be aware of the contributions of these laborers.

I would like to thank Representative JOHN LEWIS for introducing this resolution and acknowledging this frequently overlooked part of our Capitol's story. The contributions made by these workers are a part of our history and our legacy, and this recognition will help future generations better understand the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 135.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR ENGRAVEMENTS IN CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 131) directing the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of "In God We Trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 131

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. ENGRAVING OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND NATIONAL MOTTO IN CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER.

(a) ENGRAVING REQUIRED.—The Architect of the Capitol shall engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of "In God we trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center, in accordance with the engraving plan described in subsection (b).

(b) ENGRAVING PLAN.—The engraving plan described in this subsection is a plan setting forth the design and location of the engraving required under subsection (a) which is prepared by the Architect of the Capitol and approved by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield myself such time as I might consume.

This resolution, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. DANIEL LUNGREN, requires the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Motto "In God We Trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center.

The details of the engraving, including their locations, would be approved in advance by the House Administration Committee and the Senate Rules and Administration Committee. Various Members have expressed support for this proposal which the committee approved by voice vote. The cost of these engravings has been estimated by the Architect as less than \$100,000.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am honored to rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 131, and I certainly greatly appreciate the leadership of Congressman DAN LUNGREN on this matter, who is delayed by travel and unable to be here at this time.

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This resolution would direct the Architect of the Capitol to engrave our national motto "In God We Trust" and the Pledge of Allegiance in the Capitol Visitor Center. The installation of these two references will be a reminder of the importance our Founders placed on the guidance of Providence in the birth and development and future of our Nation.

The Declaration of Independence, our Nation's first national document, spoke to inalienable rights given by our Creator. Those men acknowledged that in signing that document, one that would be seen as high treason by the King of England, they were placing themselves under the protection of "Divine Providence."

When Congress adopted our Great Seal in 1782, included in its design were numerous allusions to biblical references, and the seal was marked by the words "Annuit Coeptis," which translated means "Providence has favored our undertakings."

As the Founders were drafting the Constitution, numerous sources point to their collective reliance on God for direction and wisdom. In 1787, when the Constitution was framed at the Convention in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin reminded the delegates, "To that kind Providence, we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity."

During the War of 1812, when Francis Scott Key penned the Star Spangled

Banner, he included in the final stanza: Praise the Power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation. Then conquer we must, by our sword and our pen, our country as it is, and this be our motto: "In God is our trust."

These glimpses into our history show but a few examples of the national consciousness that served as prelude to the establishment of our national motto.

The establishment of "In God We Trust" as the Nation's motto sprung out of a Civil War letter. The letter from Reverend M.R. Watkinson of Pennsylvania urged Treasury Secretary Chase to install upon our currency some indication for future generations of the Nation's religious consciousness. Reverend Watkinson was concerned that the United States might be shattered beyond recognition by the Civil War.

Secretary Chase agreed and instructed the Director of the U.S. Mint that, "No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."

The Presidency of Dwight Eisenhower saw the codification of both our national motto and the Pledge of Allegiance as we know it. On Flag Day, 1954, President Eisenhower signed the Federal law which added "Under God" to the Pledge.

Two years later, President Eisenhower signed into law the bill officially recognizing "In God We Trust" as our national motto. The motto has since been installed on both our paper currency and the Speaker's rostrum in the House.

By incorporating our national motto and the Pledge of Allegiance as permanent fixtures in the CVC, we will provide further testimony to our Nation's rich history and the degree to which these two statements reflect the philosophical foundation of these United States.

At this time, I would like to enter into the RECORD those of my colleagues who, in addition to the 160 cosponsors of House Concurrent Resolution 131, wished to be added but were unable due to time constraints:

The Honorable ROSCOE BARTLETT of Maryland;

The Honorable ROY BLUNT of Missouri;

The Honorable BILL CASSIDY of Louisiana;

The Honorable ANDER CRENSHAW of Florida;

The Honorable DAVID DREIER of California;

The Honorable ELTON GALLEGLY of California;

The Honorable BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky;

The Honorable DARREL ISSA of California;

The Honorable LYNN JENKINS of Kansas;

The Honorable TIM JOHNSON of Illinois;

The Honorable BLAINE LUETKEMEYER of Missouri;

The Honorable JERRY MORAN of Kansas;

The Honorable BILL SHUSTER of Pennsylvania;

The Honorable PAT TIBERI of Ohio.

I am proud to stand in support of this resolution and urge my colleagues' support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

This legislation basically directs the Architect of the Capitol to quit ignoring history, just like the last piece of legislation where it is not mentioned anywhere in Emancipation Hall or the Visitor Center that this Capitol was built in due part by slave labor. Neither does that expensive Visitor Center mention any religious history that this country has.

I don't know if the Architect of the Capitol doesn't like the Pledge or approve of the national motto "In God We Trust"; otherwise, both of those would already be in this expensive Visitor Center. Both mention God, and it appears that the Visitor Center, the way that it is conducted and constructed, wishes to disown and deny our religious heritage.

You go to the Visitor Center and you are led to believe, Mr. Speaker, that the national motto is not "In God We Trust" but it is "E Pluribus Unum," because the national motto is never mentioned in the propaganda video that all people see when they come into the Visitor Center. Well, the national motto is not "E Pluribus Unum." It is "In God We Trust," and that is the national motto and it should remain as such.

Mr. Speaker, our religious history is a part of American history. When the Founders of this great country got together in the Continental Congress, before they decided to draft this new concept of freedom and liberty, Benjamin Franklin made the comment that if the good Lord is concerned about the birds that fall from the air, certainly he would be concerned about the birth of a new nation; and with that, the Members of the Continental Congress knelt down and they prayed. And, Mr. Speaker, we have continued that tradition every day since the Continental Congress.

We start every day the same way. When the House is called to order, the first order of business is a prayer. The second order of business is the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, and it is important that we continue those traditions, but it is also important that people who come to the Capitol understand that is part of our routine.

Mr. Speaker, "unless the Lord watches over this House, the builders build in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, those that watch watch in vain."

Above the flag behind you, Mr. Speaker, is the phrase "In God We

Trust." It is not to the side. It is not below it. It is above it, symbolic of what we do each day, that we pray and then we have the Pledge of Allegiance. So I strongly support this legislation to make sure that the Architect of the Capitol does not deny our religious history. Put it in its proper perspective, because religion is a part of our history, whether the Architect of the Capitol likes it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 131, a resolution urging the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of "In God We Trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center.

The Pledge of Allegiance is an excellent example of national solidarity for all Americans and the foremost demonstration of America as "one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all." These words illustrate an eternal commitment to a nation unified by a common history, identity, and Constitution. The Pledge further represents that if God gives you a right, then no man should have the power to take it away. This is the premise of our nation, our rights, and our system of law, and it must be upheld in an effort to never lose sight of the fact that we are bound together as one nation—common in purpose—endeavoring to provide an open and free democracy for all of mankind.

"In God We Trust" was codified as our national motto in 1956 in recognition of the Judeo-Christian values upon which our nation is founded. Faith has always been a very important part of American history and culture, and I believe that it is imperative to uphold this cornerstone of our heritage to preserve the rights of all Americans to worship freely and openly. I am proud that my home state of Georgia has recognized "God" in its own Constitution and seeks to maintain a reliance on faith in God as one of its founding principles.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make clear that the Pledge of Allegiance and our national motto are two public illustrations of the values to which we hold firmly in America. These two principles are demonstrated in this very chamber by our opening of each legislative day with prayer and by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. One need look no further than behind the chair of the Speaker of this great body to see the inscription of "In God We Trust." These two testaments of our founding must remain the stronghold of American values and continue to be espoused in every public meeting.

Therefore, it is with great pride and honor that I stand here today to advocate for the engraving of the Pledge of Allegiance and our national motto in the newly constructed Capitol Visitor Center. Displaying these two documents prominently in an open arena for all tourists and citizens is just one more reminder of the founding and enduring principles of our nation, of which we must be reminded daily. As lawmakers, we must never cease to instill the doctrine of democracy and freedom of religion for the entire world, and by displaying these words in our nation's capitol we are only reaffirming our dedication to this endeavor. I urge all of colleagues to support this resolution and to hold steadfast to the values upon which our great nation was founded.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 131.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FUNDING

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3114) to authorize the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to use funds made available under the Trademark Act of 1946 for patent operations in order to avoid furloughs and reductions-in-force, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3114

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF PTO DIRECTOR TO USE TRADEMARK FUNDS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office—

(A) may use funds made available for fiscal year 2009, pursuant to section 31 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1113), under the heading "Department of Commerce—United States Patent and Trademark Office—Salaries and Expenses" in title I of division B of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8), up to \$70,000,000, to support the processing of patents and other activities, services, and materials relating to patents, notwithstanding section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code; and

(B) notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall, upon the exercise of the authority under subparagraph (A), establish a surcharge, in amounts up to \$70,000,000, on patent fees in effect under title 35, United States Code, to repay any funds drawn down pursuant to subparagraph (A),

if the Director certifies in writing to the Congress that the use of the funds described in subparagraph (A) is reasonably necessary to avoid furloughs or a reduction-in-force, or both, in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and does not create a substantial risk of a furlough or reduction-in-force of personnel working in the Trademark Operation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) SURCHARGES DEPOSITED IN TREASURY.—All surcharges paid under paragraph (1)(B) shall be deposited in the Treasury as an off-

setting receipt that shall not be available for obligation or expenditure.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.—The authority under subsection (a)(1)(A) shall terminate on June 30, 2010. The surcharge established under subsection (a)(1)(B) shall take effect no later than September 30, 2011, and all funds drawn down pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be repaid pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(B) no later than September 30, 2014.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The terms "Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office" and "Director" mean the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.—The term "Trademark Act of 1946" means the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes", approved July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will help the Patent and Trademark Office retain educated and trained employees who face the possibility of furlough and reduction in force due to the current economic downturn.

It is with great urgency that I bring this bill to the floor today. We have recently been informed by the Department of Commerce and the Patent and Trademark Office that the current downturn in patent fee revenues could lead to employee furlough.

The USPTO is a user-fee funded organization, and the downturn in the economy has led to a steep drop in revenues. USPTO management has already shaved over \$120 million from its current budget through various cost savings; however, June's receipts show that those cuts may not be sufficient. A budget shortfall is a very real possibility, which could necessitate furloughs and, if severe enough, a reduction in force.

Now is not the time to impede the essential economic stimulating activity at the Patent Office. Now more than ever, we need to foster innovation to help the U.S. economy rebound.

This century has seen an explosion in the number of patent applications filed, and even though the PTO has hired over 1,000 examiners each year