

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

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1998 Regular Session  
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By: **Senator Jefferies**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 12, 1998

Assigned to: Rules

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **The Black Slavery Holocaust Memorial**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing the support of the General Assembly for the efforts of  
4 Black Slavery Holocaust Memorial, Inc. to raise funds for the purchase of land  
5 on which to erect a memorial commemorating the 14 million black slaves who  
6 lost their lives as a result of the extended slavery holocaust in America, and to  
7 educate people about the horrors of slavery and the effects of that legacy on the  
8 social, economic, and political conditions in the United States.

9 WHEREAS, Over 14 million black slaves lost their lives in the more than 200  
10 years during which the legacy of slavery scarred this Nation; and

11 WHEREAS, The unfathomable pain and suffering of a noble people, stolen from  
12 their homeland, to live an ignoble existence in an alien and hostile country must  
13 never be forgotten; and

14 WHEREAS, The lasting scars from this legacy of slavery continue to manifest  
15 themselves in the social, economic, and political conditions of this country; and

16 WHEREAS, Black History Month offered all Americans an opportunity to reflect  
17 upon the rich cultural traditions of African Americans, as well as to remember the  
18 grave injustices which have been dealt to this proud people; and

19 WHEREAS, In honor of Black History Month, the National Archives displays  
20 the Emancipation Proclamation that was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on  
21 January 1, 1863, which proclaimed the freedom of America's slaves; and

22 WHEREAS, Museums such as the Museum of African American History, in  
23 Detroit, Michigan, provide a vivid blueprint of the history of slavery, of the upward  
24 striving of an oppressed people, their continuing quest for education and knowledge,  
25 and the sad epidemic of contemporary violence that threatens to annihilate many of  
26 the descendants of these courageous people; and

27 WHEREAS, Museums such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
28 in Washington, D.C. dedicated to presenting the history of the persecution and

1 murder of 6 million Jews and millions of other victims of Nazi tyranny, inspire visitors  
2 to contemplate the moral implications of their choices and responsibilities as citizens  
3 in an interdependent world; and

4 WHEREAS, A museum dedicated to the black slavery holocaust would exhibit to  
5 the world the results of man's inhumanity to man, and the moral costs to descendants  
6 of slaveholder and slave alike, and would illustrate the reality of this bloody period in  
7 American history to those who might belittle or wish to forget the horrific conditions  
8 that gave birth to the legacy of racial intolerance that plagues our society; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the  
11 General Assembly endorses and supports the efforts of Black Slavery Holocaust  
12 Memorial, Inc., to raise funds for the purchase of land on which to erect a memorial  
13 dedicated to the black slavery holocaust; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
15 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;  
16 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the  
17 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Maryland  
18 Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski,  
19 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T.  
20 Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny  
21 Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella,  
22 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke,  
23 Mayor of the City of Baltimore, Mayor's Office, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street,  
24 Baltimore, Maryland 21202; and Kweisi Mfume, President and CEO, NAACP, 4805  
25 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21215.