

U.S. Congressman Al Green

Hosts the
4th Annual

Slavery Remembrance

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BREAKFAST MEETING

**Theme: "We've Come Too Far
To Turn Back Now"**

With Special Invited Guests to Include
Prominent Clergy, Public Officials, and Civic Organizations



**Saturday
August 16, 2025
8:30 AM**



For more information, please call (713) 383-9234 or visit <https://algreen.house.gov>



SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE

Congressman Al Green's

CONSCIENCE AGENDA SUMMARY

H.Res.517, Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021

This day is intended to commemorate the victims of slavery. August 20th was chosen to commemorate the day the first slave ship, the White Lion, arrived in the English-speaking American colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia near what is today called Norfolk, Virginia.

H.Res.67, Original Slavery Remembrance Month Resolution

This month is needed to ensure we never forget the inhumanity of slavery so that such injustices are never repeated again. It would honor the generations of enslaved people whose suffering built American wealth and power while fostering a culture of truth-telling and repentance that our nation still desperately needs.

H.R.1244, Congressional Gold Medal for the Enslaved Africans Act

A Congressional Gold Medal has never been awarded to enslaved persons in recognition of their service as monumental contributors to the foundation of America's economic greatness. This historic legislation will recognize the magnitude of their economic contributions.

H.R.8933 Securities and Exchange Atonement Act

Many banks today have ties to slavery as a result of acquiring banks that participated in the acceptance of enslaved people as collateral for loans, as well as capital for other forms of exploitation. The extent of the industry's involvement with slavery is not well-known or publicized. This bill will dedicate resources to uncover this involvement so that it may begin to atone for past invidious practices.

H.Res.657 Department of Reconciliation Resolution

Systemic racism and invidious discrimination affect virtually all areas of American life, including policing, criminal justice, housing, banking, voting, employment, education, the environment, and health care. This bill would establish a Cabinet-level Department of Reconciliation that will develop and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to eliminate all forms of invidious discrimination.

DID YOU KNOW?



In 2022, President Joe Biden released a statement acknowledging and recognizing the significance of Slavery Remembrance Day.

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SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

Congressman Al Green's CONSCIENCE AGENDA SUMMARY

H.Res.654, Resolution to Remove the name Richard B. Russell from the Russell Senate Office Building

Richard Brevard Russell Jr. was an unapologetic white supremacist. He was the chief legislative architect of the South's bitter opposition to civil rights, co-authoring the "Southern Manifesto" to slow the integration of public schools, and voted against the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This resolution seeks to remove his name to prevent the glorification of those who actively spread hatred and discrimination.

H.Res.633, Original Resolution Honoring Prince Hall

Prince Hall was an ardent abolitionist and prolific activist in Boston, Massachusetts during the American Revolutionary period. In 1775, after being denied by an all-White Masonic lodge, Hall and 14 other free Black men formed their own lodge, where Prince Hall was elected leader. The Prince Hall Freemasons employed advocacy and community work to assist Blacks seeking citizenship, education, and economic advancement.

H.R.644, Original Resolution Honoring the 25th Army Corps

The 25th Army Corps was the largest unit of African Americans in the Union Army during the Civil War, comprised of more than 1,000 formerly enslaved soldiers. The 25th Army Corps chased the rebel government and soldiers of Texas into Mexico and spread the word about freedom, liberating thousands of enslaved people in Texas before the arrival of General Granger. This resolution recognizes and thanks the 25th Army Corps for their role in liberating thousands of enslaved people days prior to the arrival of General Gordon Granger on June 19, 1865.

H.Res.632, Resolution Honoring Nat Turner

Reverend Nat Turner, a freedom fighter of African ancestry, took a valorous stance against the horrors of slavery and set a standard for resistance by becoming a leader in the opposition to one of the great crimes against humanity. This resolution seeks to honor his courageous actions and his fight to ensure that the words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." applied to the enslaved.

H.Res.645, Resolution Honoring John Brown

John Brown, a white liberator of the enslaved, took an unwavering stance against slavery, marking a pivotal turn in our nation's history. His bold actions, notably the raid on Harpers Ferry, accelerated the U.S. towards the Civil War and the eventual emancipation of the enslaved. This resolution seeks to honor Brown and inspire reflection on our nation's complex history.

2024 Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day Program



Congressman Al Green's
Original Slavery Remembrance
COMMEMORATIVE COLLOQUY CEREMONY
"WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER"

Over the next few minutes we will recall various well-documented aspects of the experiences enslaved Africans in America suffered.

At the end of each of these summarized experiences I will say the words 'we must.' Immediately after I say, 'we must,' I would like you (each of you) to, in unison, say 'always remember.'

Let's begin.

To prevent the evils of slavery from being repeated **we must — "Always remember."**

To commemorate the suffering and the lives lost because of slavery **we must — "Always remember."**

For the first 20 enslaved Africans who arrived in the British colonies at Point Comfort near what is now Norfolk, Virginia on August 20, 1619 **we must — "Always remember."**

For the 12 million humans from all walks of life whose lives were stolen from them when they were kidnapped from Africa and forced into slavery **we must — "Always remember."**

For the Africans sold into slavery by other Africans **we must — "Always remember."**

For the 12 percent of human beings who suffered the deadly middle passage and did not survive the horrific voyage to America **we must — "Always remember."**

For the men, women, and children on slave ships, many of whom were kept naked, packed close together with many shackled and chained **we must — "Always remember."**

For enslaved human beings who often worked from sun up to after sun down, 6 to 7 days a week, often without food **we must — "Always remember."**

For the mothers and fathers who were separated from their children and sold on the auction blocks **we must — "Always remember."**

For the freedom fighters such as Nat Turner who fought to free enslaved people; who gave their lives in the fight for freedom and justice **we must — "Always remember."**

For the tens of thousands of enslaved human beings who risked their lives in search of freedom on the Underground Railroad **we must — “Always remember.”**

For freedom fighters such as Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery and dedicated her life to returning to the South no less than 13 times freeing enslaved men women and children, **we must — “Always remember.”**

For the white liberators like John Brown and President Abraham Lincoln who lived and died combatting the horrific institution of Slavery **we must — “Always remember.”**

To commemorate the centuries of suffering, the years of tears shed, the history of hearts broken, the brutality of blood spilled, and the grieving over lives lost because of slavery **we must — “Always remember.”**

Yet, In the spirit of righteous remembrance imbued with love for our country that hasn't always loved its brothers and sisters of African ancestry, we have to acknowledge that:

In spite of slavery and despite its invidious offsprings: mass lynchings, convict leasing, black codes, lawful segregation, and institutionalized racism, African Americans have come a laudably long way.

- From our arriving on slave ships to our ascension to judgeships,
- From surviving the Middle Passage to thriving among the masses,
- From shackled in chains to creating societal change,
- From sitting in the back of buses to owning bus companies,
- From having no house to living in the White House,
- From painfully picking cotton to proudly picking presidents,
- From adult males and females being disrespectfully called boy and girl to being respectfully presented as Mr. President and Madam Vice President,

The truth be told, although we have come a long way, we still have a way to go.

In closing, let us resolve that as we forge forward, we will commemorate our past and embrace our destiny, always remembering the hardships people of African heritage have endured in tandem with the victories won in spite of the seemingly invincible challenges emanating from insidious slavery and its invidious progenies!

Through it all **we must — “Always remember.”**

We must — “Always remember.”

We must — “Always remember.”