

VIRGINIA:

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors held at the Charles City Government and School Board Administration Building on Tuesday, August 22, 2006 7:30 p.m. in the 231st year of the Commonwealth, and in the 372nd year of the County.

PRESENT: Michael L. Holmes, Chairman
Timothy W. Cotman, Sr.
Gilbert A. Smith

RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS, PATRIOTS AND LIBERTY SEEKERS OF THE REVOLUTION WAR (RESOLUTION 2006-15)

Motion was made by Timothy W. Cotman, Sr., the motion was carried as follows:

Timothy W. Cotman, Sr.	Aye
Gilbert A. Smith	Aye
Michael L. Holmes	Aye

WHEREAS, legislation is pending in the U.S. Congress to establish the National Liberty Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C., to African Americans of the Revolutionary war era with funds donated by citizens of the United States and nations around the world who are inspired by their struggle for liberty;

WHEREAS, the National Liberty Memorial Act specifies that the memorial is the responsibility of National Mall Liberty Fund D.C., a District of Columbia corporation created specifically to design, construct, secure resources, and promote the underlying history across the nation;

WHEREAS, a Federal law passed in 2003 places a moratorium on the construction of any new memorials on the Mall and makes the National Liberty Memorial the final opportunity to honor this history, or any other, on the hallowed ground between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument;

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL

Page 2

August 22, 2006

WHEREAS, from 1775 to 1783 over 5,000 slaves and free persons, including 500 Virginians, advanced Independence and universal liberty by serving as soldiers and sailors in the Continental Army and local militias while countless others performed patriotic acts as civilians;

WHEREAS, thousands of slaves filed petitions with courts and legislatures and fled plantations in pursuit of freedom intending to become citizens, taste liberty, establish businesses, families and organizations, and inspire future generations to achievement;

WHEREAS, few communities in the U.S. may compare with Charles City County, Virginia for our awareness of the contributions of African Americans to liberty and our knowledge of citizens who are descended from those patriots, especially the nearly one dozen patriots who served from this County;

WHEREAS, thousands of African Americans created families and institutions that survive today, including families in Charles City County, the African Methodist and Episcopal Church and the Prince Hall Masons, and constitute the bedrock of the Civil Rights Movement and of the Constitution that, after 10 generations of exemplary nonviolent and patriotic struggle, finally guarantees equality for all;

WHEREAS, from as early as 1848, when historian William C. Nell and others petitioned the Massachusetts legislature for a memorial to Crispus Attucks, and 1908, when Virginians Giles B. Jackson and Webster Davis observed, "Monuments innumerable have been erected to white soldiers who fought in the Revolution. Only a few kind words have been said for the colored soldiers," there has been a consciousness over 158 years that those patriots deserve a national memorial;

WHEREAS, finally, between 1984 and 1988, Congress approved Public Law 98-245 honoring the role of the black soldiers, patriots, runaway slaves and freedom petitioners and authorized a black patriots memorial on the Mall with the enactment of Public Laws 99-558 and 100-265;

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL

Page 3

August 22, 2006

WHEREAS, the fact that the previously-authorized organization, now defunct, failed to build the memorial by the deadline, October 27, 2005, does not detract from the worthiness of the history, the monumental dream or the scholarship, including scores of books written in just the past decade and the documentation of over 2,000 black soldiers in 2001;

WHEREAS, Charles City County congratulates the foresight of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission on June 27, 2006, in recommending that National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. be authorized to preserve the site on the Mall at Constitution Gardens between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument;

WHEREAS, Charles City County congratulates local students Yolanda Wade and Daysha Christian, who are descended from multiple black patriots, and teacher Sharon McGeein, for testifying before the Federal panel in Washington, D.C. and History Center director Judy Ledbetter for arranging their appearance.

WHEREAS, National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. intends to renew the past support of national organizations, including the National Governors Association, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Prince Hall Masons, National Education Association, Daughters of the American Revolution, NAACP, American Bar Association, Sons of the American Revolution, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, AFSME, American Jewish Congress, and National Urban League;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Charles City County joins National Mall Liberty Fund D.C., the Congressional sponsors of the National Liberty Memorial Act, including Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut and Senator George Allen of Virginia, and other advocates in urging Americans of all backgrounds to work for the enactment of the legislation and the establishment of the memorial;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Charles City County urges Governor Timothy M. Kaine to work with citizens of the county to lead, coordinate, and otherwise advance efforts in Virginia to urge the U.S. Congress to approve the National Liberty Memorial Act, encourage the entire Virginia delegation to sponsor the Act, support the public education campaign, renew the support of local and national organizations, and ensure that sufficient resources are secured to dedicate the memorial by July 4, 2010; and

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERTY MEMORIAL

Page 4

August 22, 2006

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the staff of Charles City County is instructed to provide copies of this resolution to the Governor of Virginia, President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

A COPY TESTE:

Michael L. Holmes, Chairman
Board of Supervisors