

For Immediate Release
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Grassley Works to Create National Liberty Memorial
Iowan to be Recognized

WASHINGTON – Sen. Chuck Grassley today joined Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut to introduce bipartisan legislation to build a memorial that would commemorate the thousands of slaves, including Iowan Cato Mead who served in the American Revolution. The memorial would be built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Grassley said that Iowan Cato Mean, a Revolutionary War patriot and “Free Person of Color” would be recognized. Mead was from Connecticut but spent his final years in Southeast Iowa. There is a monument dedicated to Mead in the Montrose Cemetery in Lee County.

“This kind of memorial has been a long time in coming,” Grassley said. “It will help to broaden Americans’ understanding of the diversity of the patriots of the Revolutionary War.”

The National Liberty Memorial would honor the more than 5,000 slaves and freed slaves who served as soldiers and sailors under General George Washington and in the various state and local militias. It would also recognize the tens of thousands of men, women and children who petitioned courts and legislatures for their freedom.

Grassley co-sponsored similar legislation more than 20 years ago. Today he said that young Iowans who took interest in the effort at that time continue to be strong advocates for the memorial. “Their steadfast commitment to getting this memorial built pays tribute to the patriots we all want to honor,” Grassley said.