

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 471

Recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton on the bicentennial of his death because of his standing as one of the most influential Founding Fathers of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2004

Mr. PASCRELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton on the bicentennial of his death because of his standing as one of the most influential Founding Fathers of the United States.

Whereas Alexander Hamilton dedicated his life to serving his adopted country as a Revolutionary soldier, aide-de-camp to General George Washington, Representative to the Continental Congress, member of the New York State Assembly, first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and Inspector General of the Army;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was a poor teenage immigrant to New York from the West Indian Islands of Nevis and St. Croix;

Whereas in the early days of the Revolutionary War Alexander Hamilton was commissioned as a captain and raised and trained his own New York artillery regiment and served valiantly in the battles of Long Island and Manhattan;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton quickly captured the attention of General George Washington who made him his aide-de-camp and confidant throughout the most difficult days of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1781, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton of the Continental Army led a bold attack of New York troops during the siege of Yorktown, the decisive and final battle of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1782, Alexander Hamilton was elected as a member of the Continental Congress from New York;

Whereas as a private citizen Alexander Hamilton served many philanthropic causes and was a co-founder of the New York Manumission Society, the first abolitionist organization in New York and a major influence on the abolition of slavery from the State;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was a strong and consistent advocate against slavery and believed that Blacks and Whites were equal citizens and equal in their mental and physical faculties;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was one of the first members of the founding generation to call for a convention to drastically revise the Articles of Confederation;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton joined James Madison in Annapolis, Maryland in 1786 to officially request that the States call a constitutional convention;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 from New York, where he played an influential role and was the only delegate from New York to sign the Constitution;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the primary author of the Federalist Papers, the single most influential interpretation of American constitutional law ever written;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the most important individual force in achieving the ratification of the Constitution in New York against the strong opposition of many of the delegates to the ratifying convention;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the leading voice of the founding generation in support of the controversial doctrine of judicial review, which is the backbone for the role of the Supreme Court in the constitutional system of the United States;

Whereas on September 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed by President George Washington to be the first Secretary of the Treasury;

Whereas as Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton salvaged the public credit, created the first Bank of the United States, and outlined the basic economic vision of a mixed agricultural and manufacturing society supported by a strong financial system that would underlie the great economic expansion of the United States for the next 2 centuries;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the leading proponent among the Founding Fathers of encouraging a strong manufacturing base for the United States in order to create good paying middle-class jobs and encourage a society built on merit rather than class or skin color;

Whereas in pursuit of this vision Alexander Hamilton founded The Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures which in turn founded the town of Paterson, New Jersey, one of the first industrial centers of the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton proposed and oversaw the creation of the Coast Guard for law enforcement in territorial waters of the United States;

Whereas in 1798, President John Adams called upon Alexander Hamilton to raise an army in preparation for a possible war with France and, as Inspector General of the Army, he trained a powerful force of well-equipped soldiers who were able to help deter war at this vulnerable stage in the founding of the United States;

Whereas throughout the founding era Alexander Hamilton was the leading advocate of a strong national union led by an efficient Federal Government with significant protections for individual liberties;

Whereas on July 11, 1804, Alexander Hamilton was fatally wounded in a duel in Weehawken, New Jersey at the hands of Vice President Aaron Burr; and

Whereas Alexander Hamilton died in Manhattan on July 12, 1804, and was eulogized across the country as one of the leading visionaries of the founding era: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That Congress—*
- 3 (1) honors the great importance of the life and
- 4 legacy of Alexander Hamilton to the United States
- 5 of America on the bicentennial of his death;

