

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 628

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the African-Americans who duly won election to the House during the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era but were wrongly denied the right to take their seats should be recognized as former Members of the House.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the African-Americans who duly won election to the House during the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era but were wrongly denied the right to take their seats should be recognized as former Members of the House.

Whereas during the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era, many African-Americans won election to the House of Representatives but were wrongly denied the right to serve as Members;

Whereas James Lewis of Louisiana, who won an election in 1869, was denied his seat in the House when his credentials were challenged;

Whereas John Willis Menard of Louisiana, who also won an election in 1869, was denied his seat in the House on the basis of a challenge by the individual he defeated;

Whereas Pinckney B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana, who had been elected previously to the House, conceded his seat in the House on the assumption that he would be seated in the Senate, but was denied his seat by the Democratic majority; and

Whereas Josiah Thomas Walls of Florida, who had been elected previously to the House, won an election in 1874 but was denied his seat in the House on the basis of a challenge by the individual he defeated, a former colonel in the Confederate army: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) James Lewis, John Willis Menard, Pinck-
4 ney B.S. Pinchback, and Josiah Thomas Walls duly
5 won election to the House during the post-Civil War
6 Reconstruction Era;

7 (2) these individuals were wrongly denied the
8 right to take their seats as Members of the House;
9 and

10 (3) these individuals should be recognized as
11 former Members of the House.

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