



## H.Con.Res. 310 – Expressing support for a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.Con.Res. 310 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Elijah Cummings (D-MD) on March 5, 2008. The resolution was reported out of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.Con.Res. 310 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 1, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.Con.Res. 310 resolves that it is the sense of Congress that:

- Supports the designation of a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman; and
- Encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman.

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### BACKGROUND

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Harriet Ross Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland circa 1820. She escaped from slavery in 1849 by following the North Star to Philadelphia, PA, where she became a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

*\*Note: The Underground Railroad was a system of people and "safe houses" that assisted fugitive slaves that were trying to escape to the north. Those involved in the Underground Railroad were only knowledgeable of the next stop on the system and not the entire route. This system effectively moved hundreds of slaves each year.*

Harriet Tubman was often referred to as "Moses" because she led more than 300 enslaved persons to freedom using the Underground Railroad.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked for the Union Army as a cook, a nurse, and a spy.

On March 10, 1913, Harriet Tubman passed away at her home in Auburn, New York.

Congress designated March 10, 1990, as Harriet Tubman Day during the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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For questions or further information contact Brianne Miller at (202) 226-2302.