

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY CONGRESSWOMAN ASHLEY HINSON

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Legislative Hearing 02/03/2022

H.R. 6201, the National Liberty Memorial Preservation Act

Chairman Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 6201, the National Liberty Memorial Preservation Act.

I am proud to co-lead this bipartisan, bicameral legislation alongside my friend Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, who is also testifying today, Senator Chris Murphy, and Iowa's own Senator Chuck Grassley.

This bill is simple – it would allow a nonprofit organization to establish the National Liberty Memorial in Washington, DC, to honor Black Revolutionary War soldiers.

The memorial would be at no cost to taxpayers – it would be fully funded through charitable donations. All Americans would be able to experience it and learn this important history.

This history impacts every single Iowan and American, as free and enslaved Black soldiers served and played a key role in every major battle of the Revolutionary War.

In fact, one such Revolutionary War hero even migrated to and lived out the remainder of his life in Iowa—Mr. Cato Mead.

Mr. Cato Mead is the only known Black Patriot buried west of the Mississippi River. He served at Valley Forge in the Continental Army alongside our Commander in Chief, George Washington. He was a proud soldier and Iowan.

Mr. Mead received a soldier's pay of \$10.04 for service in the Revolutionary War.

Now, centuries later, I believe it is time to give Mr. Cato Mead and all of our Black Patriots the honor they are due by allowing a memorial to be built in their name.

I ask that you join me in encouraging the National Liberty Memorial's creation by extending the authorization and supporting H.R. 6201.

Thank you for your consideration.