

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 301
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and
insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) “Lift Every Voice and Sing” is a beloved
4 hymn that is currently produced and distributed by
5 approximately 40 religious publishing houses
6 throughout the United States.

7 (2) “Lift Every Voice and Sing” is regularly
8 sung at various religious services and choir perform-
9 ances at community and cultural events to com-
10 memorate the struggles that have accompanied our
11 Nation’s “pursuit of a more perfect Union”.

12 (3) James Weldon Johnson wrote the poem
13 “Lift Every Voice and Sing” in 1899 to celebrate
14 the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s
15 birthday, and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, set
16 the poem to music.

17 (4) “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was first per-
18 formed on February 12, 1900, by a choir of 500

1 school children from the Stanton School in the John-
2 sons' hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, where
3 James Weldon Johnson served as the principal.

4 (5) In 1905, Booker T. Washington's recogni-
5 tion of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" helped to make
6 it a very popular song in Black communities
7 throughout the United States.

8 (6) In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt
9 named James Weldon Johnson to diplomatic posi-
10 tions in Venezuela and Nicaragua, and when he re-
11 turned to the United States, he became affiliated
12 with the NAACP.

13 (7) In the 1920s, the NAACP chose "Lift
14 Every Voice and Sing" as its official song and it was
15 dubbed the "Black National anthem".

16 (8) In 1934, James Weldon Johnson, a grad-
17 uate of Clark Atlanta University, became the first
18 African-American professor at New York University,
19 and later served in a similar capacity at Fisk Uni-
20 versity in Nashville, Tennessee.

21 (9) The lyrics of "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
22 inspired the 16 foot sculpture, "The Harp" created
23 by the renowned artist Augusta Savage and commis-
24 sioned by the 1939 New York World's Fair.

1 (10) “Lift Every Voice and Sing” is sung at
2 gatherings of the Faith and Politics Institute, whose
3 bipartisan programs and pilgrimages include partici-
4 pation by Members of Congress, and was co-chaired
5 for many years by the late Congressmen, Democrat
6 John Lewis and Republican Amo Houghton, both of
7 whom transitioned in 2020.

8 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL HYMN.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 36, United
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 **“§ 306. National hymn**

13 “The composition consisting of the words and music
14 known as ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’ is designated as the
15 national hymn of the United States.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 for chapter 3 of title 36, United States Code, is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

“306. National hymn.”.

