

HR 9105

2015

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution recognizing March 7, 2015, in
3 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the March on
4 Selma and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

5
6 WHEREAS, March 7, 2015, marked 50 years since the brave
7 foot soldiers of the Selma Voting Rights Movement first
8 attempted to march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama,
9 in protest against the denial of the African-American right to
10 vote and were brutally assaulted by Alabama state troopers, and

11 WHEREAS, in 1964, members of the Student Nonviolent
12 Coordinating Committee attempted to register African Americans
13 to vote throughout the state of Alabama in an effort to ensure
14 that all American citizens would be able to exercise their
15 constitutional right to vote and have their voices heard, and

16 WHEREAS, this effort remained unsuccessful, and in January
17 and February of 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., began to
18 organize protests throughout Alabama with leaders from the
19 Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and

20 WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965, led by John Lewis and other
21 activists of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and
22 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, approximately 600
23 voting rights marchers gathered on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in
24 Selma, Alabama, and began the march toward the Alabama State
25 Capitol in peaceful protest against the denial of the sacred and
26 constitutionally protected right to vote, and

HR 9105

2015

27 WHEREAS, Americans across the nation watched via news
28 broadcast as the marchers were confronted, brutally attacked,
29 and beaten by Alabama state troopers, and as a result of this
30 violence, the day became known as Bloody Sunday, and

31 WHEREAS, two days later, more than 2,000 foot soldiers, led
32 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with no protection from federal
33 or state authorities, risked their lives once more and attempted
34 a second peaceful march, and

35 WHEREAS, inspired by this bravery and determination,
36 President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed Congress on March 15,
37 1965, and announced his plan for federal voting rights
38 legislation, and a day later, United States Federal Judge Frank
39 M. Johnson enjoined local law enforcement from harassing the
40 foot soldiers as they exercised their First Amendment right to
41 peacefully protest, and

42 WHEREAS, from March 21-25, 1965, the Alabama National Guard
43 and countless federal agents and marshals escorted 2,000 foot
44 soldiers on their heroic march from Selma to the steps of the
45 Alabama State Capitol building, where the number of marchers had
46 soared to approximately 50,000, and

47 WHEREAS, the extraordinary bravery and sacrifice displayed
48 by these foot soldiers brought national attention to the
49 struggle for equal voting rights and served as a catalyst for
50 Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which President
51 Johnson signed into law on August 6, 1965, NOW, THEREFORE,

52

HR 9105

2015

53 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
54 Florida:

55

56 That March 7, 2015, is recognized in commemoration of the
57 50th anniversary of the March on Selma and the passage of the
58 Voting Rights Act of 1965.