

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 291

To designate November 18, 1996, as “American Free Enterprise Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 13, 1996

Mr. BROWN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 28, 1996

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

To designate November 18, 1996, as “American Free
Enterprise Day”.

Whereas American prosperity is founded on the free enterprise system of individual opportunity and economic freedom;

Whereas the roots of American free enterprise can be found in the experiences of the people of Jamestown and Plymouth, the earliest American colonies;

Whereas the basis of free enterprise is the right to ownership of private property, which ensures to individuals the fruits of their own labor and encourages the virtues of self-reliance, thrift, and industriousness;

Whereas the settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth were initially deprived of the fruits of their own labor and therefore lacked the incentive for private initiative and hard work;

Whereas William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Plantation, wrote that in response to the misery and want experienced by the people of Plymouth he decided “that they should set corn every man for his own particular; and that regard trust to themselves This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use.”;

Whereas on November 18, 1618, “The Great Charter” endowed the colonists of Virginia with the right to profit from property under their individual control for the first time; and

Whereas the result of the Great Charter was a blossoming of individual initiative and self-sufficiency that laid the foundations for the American tradition of economic freedom, prosperity, and self-government: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the men and women of our first
3 colonies who began the American tradition of hard
4 work and individual initiative;

5 (2) honors all those who have defended the
6 right of individuals to own property, pursue their
7 own initiative, and to reap the fruits of their own
8 labor; and

1 (3) designates November 18, 1996, as “Amer-
2 ican Free Enterprise Day”.

3 The President is authorized and requested to issue a proc-
4 lamation calling upon the people of the United States and
5 Federal, State, and local administrators to observe the day
6 with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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