

PRESS RELEASE

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES RANGEL

Contact: Emile Milne/Robin M. Peguero 202 225-4365
Elbert Garcia 212 663-3900

December 15, 2009

HOUSE PASSES RANGEL'S RESOLUTION HONORING A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

Congressman Charles B. Rangel released the following statement today after the House passed – by a vote of 395 to 23 – his resolution honoring A. Philip Randolph and his work in ending discrimination and promoting equal employment opportunities for all Americans:

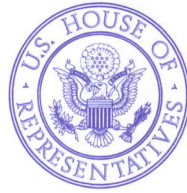
"A. Philip Randolph was an inspirational figure of his times who demonstrated an unyielding struggle for human rights that impacted marginalized groups in society. With a hand in both the Civil Rights Movement and Labor Movement, Randolph was a tireless and highly effective advocate for African American rights during the 1930s and 1940s, focused particularly on employment rights. His great life's work is an American story of struggle and triumph, and it is long overdue that his legacy be acknowledged and celebrated in the records of Congress.

He led the effort to organize the Pullman Company – one of the most powerful businesses in the nation. This led to the formation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an organization that advanced the claims of African-Americans to dignity, respect, and a decent livelihood. His successful negotiations with the Pullman Company encouraged him to put pressure on President Franklin D. Roosevelt to end employment discrimination against Blacks in the federal government. In 1955, Randolph was elected vice president of the newly merged AFL-CIO and he was a leading force behind the 1963 March on Washington, in which more than 250,000 Americans joined together under the slogan of "Jobs and Freedom." The march led in part to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

His commitment to bettering America cannot be listed or measured quantifiably – it was the leading cause of his life and one he accomplished many times over. We owe many of the rights and freedoms we enjoy to his hard work. Today, the House revisited that illustrious segment of our history and chose to honor the man and his legacy as a storied example of an American fighting for a more perfect union."

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS
JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION
CHAIRMAN



GEORGE A. DALLEY
CHIEF OF STAFF

JAMES E. CAPEL
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 18, 2009

A. Philip Randolph Institute
815 16th Street, N.W., 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Sir or Madam:

It gives me great pleasure and delight to inform you of the passing of H.RES 150, a resolution honoring the legacy of A. Philip Randolph. Mr. Randolph firmly believed that worker's rights and civil rights went hand in hand, and he strived throughout the course of his career and life to advance those causes. By a vote of 395 to 23, the House of Representatives passed my resolution, in one voice recognizing the great contributions Mr. Randolph has made to our country.

A. Philip Randolph's life's work demonstrated an unyielding struggle for human rights that impacted all marginalized groups in society during his time. He struggled for social, political, and economic justice for all working Americans, and recognizing him in Congress was a long and overdue honor that his legacy deserved and finally received.

I admire (Your Organization) for its commitment to its mission to advocate for civil rights, equality, and justice. It is a testament to your dedication for preserving A. Phillip Randolph's good name and awe-inspiring story. For your convenience and pleasure, enclosed you will find a signed ceremonial copy of the bill as well as a press release from my office.

A. Phillip Randolph was truly a tremendous influence and inspiration to the United States. Please know that you can count on my continued support, and I look forward to being informed on matters that you may need assistance with in the near future.

Sincerely,


CHARLES B. RANGEL
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means

CBR/ajl

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2354 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4365
FAX: (202) 225-0816

PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

DISTRICT OFFICE
163 WEST 125TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027
TELEPHONE: (212) 663-3900
FAX: (212) 663-4277



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that A. Philip Randolph should be recognized for his lifelong leadership and work to end discrimination and secure equal employment and labor opportunities for all Americans.

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was born April 15, 1889;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was in New York during the height of the Harlem Renaissance and was a student in politics and economics at City College, which served as the intellectual center of the movement;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was the cofounder of The Messenger in 1917, a widely read and respected magazine known for its radical persuasion;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was the leader of the successful movement to organize the Pullman Company (one of the most powerful businesses in the Nation) which led to the formation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), an organization that advanced the claims of African-Americans to dignity, respect, and a decent livelihood;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was selected by the porters at the Pullman Company as a representative because he was a good orator and a tireless fighter for the rights of African-Americans and was dedicated to the porters' cause for over a decade;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was able to gain an international charter from the American Federation of Labor (now AFL-CIO) after Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal legislation forced the Pullman Company to negotiate with the Brotherhood, and was able to successfully negotiate the first-ever contract between a company and a black union, in 1937;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was one of the central figures speaking out for African-American rights during the 1930s and 1940s and focused on labor and employment issues;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was a leader in the movement challenging discrimination in defense industry jobs and used the threat of a march on Washington as part of an effort to lobby President Roosevelt to sign an executive order banning discrimination within the Government and the defense industries;



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CHARLES B. RANGEL
15TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was, in 1947, a leader in the movement to end segregation in the military and called for African-Americans to refuse to register for the draft until these practices were ended and was successful in this effort, which saw President Truman issue an executive order barring discrimination in the military on July 26, 1948;

Whereas A. Philip Randolph was the leading force behind the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and worked with many old friends and foes of his earlier labor struggles to ensure the success of the event, which took place on August 28, 1963, drew a crowd of over 250,000 people, and was the occasion of a meeting with President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

Whereas A. Philip Randolph died in 1979 as an elder statesman of the civil rights movement, a much admired figure and role model for the young people of this Nation: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that A. Phillip Randolph should be recognized for his lifelong leadership and work to end discrimination and secure equal employment and labor opportunities for all Americans.