

## House Resolution 744

By: Representatives Heckstall of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Post 3, Stephenson of the 60<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, Fludd of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Post 4, Thomas of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Post 1, Jackson of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States  
2 Department of Defense to conceive and devise policies and actions to offer African  
3 Americans enhanced opportunities to participate in postwar economic redevelopment and  
4 reconstruction efforts in Iraq; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, while African Americans comprise only 10 percent of the American population,  
6 nearly 40 percent of American military personnel are African Americans; and

7 WHEREAS, such disproportionate representation of African Americans in the U.S. Armed  
8 Forces and particularly on the battlefields of Iraq is a reflection of numerous facts and truths  
9 about American society and the relationship of African American citizens with that society;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, not the least significant of which truths is the love which African Americans  
12 have for this country, the patriotic commitment to defense of its freedom, and the unwavering  
13 dedication to its national ideals; and

14 WHEREAS, spilling their blood on the battlefields of Iraq, risking their lives in defense of  
15 freedom and justice, African Americans prove their unquestionable loyalty to this country  
16 and its government; and

17 WHEREAS, at the war's end and upon the inevitable rebuilding of Iraq that this country will  
18 undertake and likely lead, these same African Americans, and those whom they represent,  
19 should be affirmatively granted the opportunity for prominent involvement in such rebuilding  
20 and reconstruction efforts; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States government and American financial and other institutions are  
22 asked to make deliberate and concerted efforts to enhance opportunities for African

1 American businesses and individuals to participate in substantial ways in the postwar  
2 economic redevelopment of Iraq.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
4 this body urges President George Bush, the United States Congress, and the Department of  
5 Defense to commit to action which will affirmatively enhance opportunities for participation  
6 by African Americans in the economic redevelopment in Iraq at the close of the war.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable George Bush,  
9 President of the United States; members of the Georgia Congressional delegation; and the  
10 Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense.