

ADOPTED

Senator Williams of the 19th offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend the committee substitute to SR 1055 (LC 34 1773S) by inserting between lines 1 and*
2 *2 on page 13 the following:*

3 WHEREAS, during the summer of 1864, six hundred Federal officers, prisoners of war, were
4 placed in a residential area of Charleston, South Carolina, which was being shelled by
5 Federal guns, night and day, since August of 1863; and

6 WHEREAS, in retaliation for erroneously alleged abuse of these Federal prisoners by
7 Confederate authorities, on August 25, 1864, six hundred Confederate prisoners of war were
8 selected from those confined at Fort Delaware to be used as human targets; and

9 WHEREAS, the six hundred Confederate prisoners were placed in a pine-wood stockade
10 immediately in front of a military target, Battery Wagner, occupied by Federal artillery; and

11 WHEREAS, after 45 days of exposure to Confederate fire, there being no casualties, the
12 Federal authorities decided to move the Confederates to Fort Pulaski in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, while at Fort Pulaski, the remnant of the six hundred who had been determined
14 to be physically able to be moved were fed wormy corn meal, pickles, and limited amounts
15 of water. The men were intentionally starved. Clothing and blankets were withheld as well
16 as firewood for warmth. It was one of the coldest winters in Georgia in many years; and

17 WHEREAS, the Confederates were consistently promised "fair" treatment if they would sign
18 the oath of allegiance to the United States. These men had sworn an oath of allegiance to the
19 Confederate States of America, their country, and the war was still being waged. They
20 endured abuse that is hard to imagine; and

21 WHEREAS, upon completion of the War Between the States and the release of what was left
22 of the six hundred by July 24, 1865, their story was being told by survivors and witnesses.
23 They became known as "The Immortal Six Hundred" for their courage, strength, and fidelity
24 to their country in the face of brutal retaliation for an alleged abuse that did not exist; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1876, the *Southern Historical Society Papers* contained the following
2 statement by Captain George W. Nelson of the Hanover Artillery of Virginia in honor of The
3 Immortal Six Hundred:

4 "The consequence of all this was that the prisoners died like sheep. Whatever the
5 immediate cause of their death, that cause was induced by starvation, and over the
6 dead bodies of nine-tenths of those brave, true men there can be given but one true
7 verdict: 'Death by starvation.'"

8 **PART XIX**

9 *By inserting after line 27 on page 14 the following:*

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body memorialize the bravery and
11 loyalty of The Immortal Six Hundred in the face of indescribable deprivation and
12 inhumanity.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of the road at the intersection of US 80 and
14 County Road 228 (Fort Pulaski Road) for one-half mile in each direction on US 80 be
15 dedicated as The Immortal Six Hundred Memorial Highway.