

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 150

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Elaine massacre.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. WESTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Elaine
massacre.

Whereas between September 30 and October 1, 1919, an unknown number of African Americans were murdered in a racially motivated riot;

Whereas the violence erupted when the unionization of sharecroppers was falsely portrayed as a Black insurrection against White landowners;

Whereas estimates range between 100 to 240 victims, making the massacre one of the worst instances of mass racial violence in United States history;

Whereas official investigations were only made into the deaths of 5 White people who were also killed in the violence;

Whereas those investigations resulted in the prosecution of 122 African Americans; and

Whereas subsequent litigation resulted in the historic United States Supreme Court decision of Moore et al. v. Dempsey in 1923, the first Supreme Court case regarding the treatment of African Americans in State criminal justice systems, setting a precedent for future review of State criminal convictions: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) honors the lives and legacies of the un-
3 known number of African Americans who were mur-
4 dered in Phillips County, Arkansas, 100 years ago;

5 (2) expresses its deepest sympathies to the fam-
6 ilies of the victims; and

7 (3) recognizes the role the massacre played in
8 strengthening United States citizens' due process
9 rights through Moore v. Dempsey, which set a prece-
10 dent for the Supreme Court's subsequent review of
11 State criminal trials and their compliance with the
12 Bill of Rights.

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