



Robert C. Byrd Center

for CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY AND EDUCATION

For Immediate Release

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Video Series Focused on the Fight for Racial Equality in America is Now Available

The Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education has produced a series of 6 video lectures that explore the immense struggle to overcome systemic racism and achieve racial equality for Black Americans from the efforts to end of the institution of slavery in the nineteenth century to the enduring fight for equality that exists today. This highly acclaimed educational series of lectures is entitled “Of, By, and For the People: Congress and the Fight for Racial Equality in America,” and it is available now at no charge to the public on the Robert C. Byrd Center website: www.byrdcenter.org/of-by-and-for-all-people.

In keeping with the goals of the Robert C. Byrd Center, the lecture series focuses on Congress’ position at the center of historic debates on racism and equality in America, highlighting the instruments and institutions of representative democracy that have been crucial in our long national fight to become a more perfect union.

The 6 video lectures are 40 – 90 minutes in length. They are “Slavery, Civil Rights and the Gag Rule Debates in Congress,” “To March Ahead of His Followers: Charles Sumner and the Civil Rights Act of 1875,” “No Innocent Bystanders: The Power and Responsibility of Local Action,” “The Bill of the Century: The Epic Battle for the Civil Rights Act,” “From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime,” and “The Shame of America: the New Deal Senate and the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill.”

Included on the website is a selection of educational resources, archival documents and lesson plans for exploring the struggle for African American Civil Rights from the Byrd Center Archives as well as the National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress. The lesson plans are designed for secondary level students and are applicable in civics, history, social studies, or government courses of instruction.

A private, non-partisan and non-profit educational organization located on the campus of Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, the Robert C. Byrd Center for History and Education advances representative democracy by promoting a better understanding of the United States Congress and the Constitution through programs and research that engage citizens.

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An image accompanies this press release.