

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4228

To provide justice for living survivors of the 1921 Tulsa/Greenwood Race
Massacre.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BELL, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. FROST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide justice for living survivors of the 1921 Tulsa/
Greenwood Race Massacre.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Original Justice for
5 living survivors of the 1921 Tulsa/Greenwood Race Mas-
6 sacre Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Okla-
2 homa, on May 31 and June 1, 1921, following spe-
3 cious allegations that a Black teenager sexually as-
4 saulted a White woman, a vicious violent mob of
5 armed White Tulsans encircled Greenwood and ter-
6 rorized the district's Black residents for nearly 48
7 hours. During this time, the Federal Government
8 did nothing to aid or defend the residents of Green-
9 wood.

10 (2) The violent mob murdered and assaulted
11 Black citizens.

12 (3) The vicious mob looted and destroyed the
13 approximately 35-square block Greenwood commu-
14 nity, including a Federal post office.

15 (4) The Tulsa Race Massacre left hundreds
16 dead, over 1,500 homes and businesses destroyed,
17 leaving approximately 10,000 Black Tulsans home-
18 less.

19 (5) The Greenwood business district,
20 colloquially known as Black Wall Street, and once
21 considered the wealthiest Black community in the
22 nation, was violently decimated.

23 (6) For over 100 years, the city, county, State,
24 and Federal Governments have failed to ensure any

1 meaningful measure of justice for the victims of the
2 Tulsa Race Massacre.

3 (7) In 2001, the Oklahoma State Commission
4 to Study the Tulsa Race Riot recommended that
5 monetary compensation be paid to survivors of the
6 Tulsa Race Massacre. The State of Oklahoma and
7 City of Tulsa ignored the recommendation, and no
8 monetary compensation has been given to any sur-
9 vivors.

10 (8) Only two of the thousands of victims of the
11 Tulsa Race Massacre, 111 year-old Viola Ford
12 Fletcher and 110 year-old Lessie Benningfield
13 Randle, remain with us. They have continued, for
14 over 100 years, to appeal to our better angels for
15 justice.

16 (9) On September 1, 2020, 110-year-old victim
17 Viola Ford Fletcher and 111-year-old victim Lessie
18 Benningfield Randle filed suit in Oklahoma State
19 court. The suit was sadly dismissed, and the regret-
20 table dismissal was affirmed by the Oklahoma Su-
21 preme Court on procedural grounds on June 12,
22 2024.

23 (10) On June 12, 2024, the Oklahoma Supreme
24 Court, in its decision dismissing the two survivors'
25 lawsuit, Randle et. al. v. City of Tulsa, et. al. the

1 court acknowledged the legitimacy of the plaintiffs’
2 grievances but concluded that their claims did not
3 fall within the scope of Oklahoma’s public nuisance
4 statute. Specifically, the court stated “Plaintiffs’
5 grievance with the social and economic inequities
6 created by the Tulsa Race Massacre is legitimate
7 and worthy of merit. However, the [Oklahoma State]
8 law does not permit us to extend the scope of our
9 public nuisance doctrine beyond what the Legisla-
10 ture has authorized to afford Plaintiffs the justice
11 they are seeking.”.

12 (11) On September 30, 2024, the Department
13 of Justice announced that it would review and evalu-
14 ate the Tulsa Race Massacre under the Emmett Till
15 Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act.

16 (12) On January 17, 2025, the United States
17 Department of Justice’s report, issued pursuant to
18 the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reau-
19 thorization Act, stated that the Tulsa Race Mas-
20 sacre of 1921 was not merely an episode of mob vio-
21 lence, but a systematic and coordinated act of racial
22 terrorism. The report concluded that the massacre
23 was distinguished by its magnitude, barbarity, and
24 white supremacist hostility, resulting in the near-
25 total annihilation of Greenwood—a thriving Black

1 community known as Black Wall Street. The De-
2 partment characterized the massacre as, “a civil
3 rights crime unique in its scale and devastation”,
4 underscoring the profound and unredressed harm in-
5 flicted upon Black Americans in Tulsa and the fail-
6 ure of local, State, and Federal authorities to hold
7 perpetrators accountable.

8 (13) Historical precedents show that the Fed-
9 eral Government as a determinant of last resort has
10 taken action to provide recompense relief for victims
11 of blatantly unconscionable mass injustices.

12 (14) In 1988, Congress, as a determinant of
13 last resort, awarded Japanese citizens who were vic-
14 tims of unjust internment, \$20,000 each.

15 (15) In 1990, Congress, as a determinant of
16 last resort, awarded eligible workers injured during
17 work related to uranium mining, \$100,000 each.

18 (16) In 2001, Congress, as a determinant of
19 last resort, established the 9/11 Victim Compensa-
20 tion Fund which has, to date, awarded approxi-
21 mately \$19,649,000,000 to victims of the September
22 11th terrorist attack.

23 (17) In 2015, Congress, pursuant to the Con-
24 solidated and Further Continuing Appropriations

1 Act, 2015, awarded a five-year \$17,000,000 grant
2 initiative to assist aging victims of the Holocaust.

3 (18) Tulsa Race Massacre victims, 111-year-old
4 Viola Ford Fletcher and 110-year-old Lessie
5 Benningfield Randle, are in the twilight of their
6 lives. Relief action must be taken post haste.

7 (19) The failure to accord Race Massacre vic-
8 tims, 111-year-old Viola Ford Fletcher and 110-
9 year-old Lessie Benningfield Randle, monetary relief
10 similar to prior historical precedents will become jus-
11 tice denied.

12 **SEC. 3. JUST COMPENSATION FOR OVER 100 YEARS OF SUF-**
13 **FERING AND INJUSTICE INFLICTED.**

14 (a) PAYMENT.—Not later than 30 days after receipt
15 of the certification required under subsection (c), the Sec-
16 retary of the Treasury shall pay \$10,398,368 in compen-
17 satory damages and \$10,398,368 in punitive damages to
18 each surviving victim of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre
19 still alive, as of May 1, 2025 (or, in the event of death
20 prior to such payment, to their estate).

21 (b) BASIS.—The payment required by subsection (a)
22 shall be to compensate the living survivor for the harm
23 they sustained as a result of the failure of the Federal
24 Government to prevent, investigate, prosecute, or litigate
25 the Tulsa Race Massacre.

1 (c) CERTIFICATION.—Upon receiving proof of iden-
2 tity in the form of a birth certificate from an individual
3 described in subsection (a), the Assistant Attorney Gen-
4 eral for Civil Rights shall certify the payment authorized
5 under subsection (a) to that individual. The Assistant At-
6 torney General for Civil Rights may not require any addi-
7 tional information from such an individual to certify such
8 payments.

9 (d) JUDGMENT FUND.—The payments under sub-
10 section (a) shall be made out of the fund established under
11 section 1304 of title 31, United States Code (commonly
12 referred to as the “Judgment Fund”).

13 **SEC. 4. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.**

14 The payments made pursuant to section 3 shall be
15 in full satisfaction of all claims a living survivor may have
16 against the United States for any harm described in such
17 section.

18 **SEC. 5. INELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.**

19 Upon payment of the sums referred to in section 3,
20 a living survivor shall not be eligible for any additional
21 compensation or benefits from the Federal Government
22 for any harm described in such section.

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