

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 41

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Referred to the Committee on House Administration

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Providing for the acceptance of a statue of Helen Keller,
presented by the people of Alabama.

Whereas Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on
June 27, 1880, and at the age of 19 months lost her
sight and hearing as a result of meningitis;

Whereas Helen was liberated from the “double dungeon of
darkness and silence” by her teacher, Anne Sullivan,
when she discovered language and communication at the
water pump when she was 7 years old;

Whereas Helen enrolled in Radcliffe College in 1900 and
graduated cum laude in 1904 to become the first deaf
and blind college graduate;

Whereas Helen’s life served as a model for all people with
disabilities in America and worldwide;

Whereas Helen became friends with many American Presi-
dents and was the recipient of some of our Nation’s most
distinguished honors;

Whereas Helen became recognized as one of Alabama's and America's best known figures and became "America's Goodwill Ambassador to the World";

Whereas Helen pioneered the concept of "talking books" for the blind;

Whereas LIFE Magazine hailed Helen as "one of the 100 most important Americans of the 20th Century—a national treasure"; and

Whereas Helen Keller will become the first person with disabilities enshrined in the Capitol and will become an even greater inspiration for people with disabilities worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 **SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF HELEN KELLER, FROM THE**
4 **PEOPLE OF ALABAMA, FOR PLACEMENT IN**
5 **THE CAPITOL.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Helen Keller, fur-
7 nished by the people of Alabama for placement in the Cap-
8 itol, in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Stat-
9 utes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted
10 in the name of the United States, and the thanks of Con-
11 gress are tendered to the people of Alabama for providing
12 this commemoration of one of Alabama's most eminent
13 personages.

14 (b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of Ala-
15 bama is authorized to use the Rotunda of the Capitol on

1 October 7, 2009, for a presentation ceremony for the stat-
 2 ue. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police
 3 Board shall take such action as may be necessary with
 4 respect to physical preparations and security for the cere-
 5 mony.

6 (c) DISPLAY IN ROTUNDA.—The Architect of the
 7 Capitol shall provide for the display of the statue accepted
 8 under this section in the Rotunda of the Capitol for a pe-
 9 riod of not more than 6 months, after which period the
 10 statue shall be displayed in the Capitol, in accordance with
 11 the procedures described in section 311(e) of the Legisla-
 12 tive Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 2132(e)).

13 **SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA.**

14 The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an en-
 15 rolled copy of this concurrent resolution to the Governor
 16 of Alabama.

Passed the Senate September 23, 2009.

Attest: NANCY ERICKSON,
Secretary.