

HONORING THE LIFE OF PERCY LAVON JULIAN, A PIONEER IN THE FIELD  
OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE  
FIRST AND ONLY AFRICAN AMERICAN CHEMIST TO BE INDUCTED INTO  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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JANUARY 29, 2007.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, from the Committee on Science and  
Technology, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 34]

The Committee on Science and Technology, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

H. Con. Res. 34 expresses the House of Representatives' desire to honor the life of Percy Lavon Julian.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Percy Julian was one of the great scientists of the 20th century. The grandson of Alabama slaves, Julian won worldwide acclaim for his work in organic chemistry and broke the color barrier in American science more than a decade before Jackie Robinson did so in baseball. A distinguished student, Dr. Julian worked his way through college but still graduated as class Valedictorian at DePauw and did graduate work at Harvard and University of Vienna. At the depth of the Great Depression, DePauw welcomed him back as a teacher of organic chemistry. A brilliant chemist at DePauw, Dr. Julian discovered a way to turn soybeans into synthetic steroids on an industrial scale and discovered a process to synthesize physostigmine, the drug used in the treatment of glaucoma. After just five years at DePauw, Glidden Company hired Dr. Julian as its Director of Research. While there, he pioneered a process for the chemical synthesis of cortisone from soy which al-

lowed for the widespread and affordable use of cortisone in the treatment of arthritis.

In 1950, the Julian family decided to move from Chicago to suburban Oak Park. Their home was fire bombed before they could move in. His new neighbors rallied around him and he stayed, formed a business in Oak Park to produce synthetic cortisone from yams, and became a community leader. The year after his death, the Village government made his birthday a local holiday.

His business success brought him substantial wealth and he became a civil rights leader in the Chicago area. He founded the National Negro Business and Professional Committee for the Legal Defense Fund and raised money for the NAACP and was a contributor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Dr. Julian is the only African American organic chemist to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences. By the time of his death in 1973, he had received over 100 patents as well as 19 honorary Doctorates. Dr. Julian's life story has now been documented in the PBS NOVA film "Forgotten Genius".

Given Dr. Julian's major achievements, it is fitting and proper for the House of Representatives to honor him at the time of the release of the film about his life.

#### SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

The official title of the resolution as introduced is: a Resolution honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

H. Con. Res. 34 lists many of Dr. Julian's achievements and resolves that the Congress honor the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson introduced this resolution on January 12, 2007 for herself, and Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Rangel, Mr. Gordon of Tennessee, Mr. Costello, Mr. Rohrabacher, Ms. Norton, Mr. Ehlers, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Kilpatrick of Michigan, Mr. Holt, and Ms. Matsui.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology. On January 24, 2007 the resolution was considered at a Science and Technology Committee mark-up session and was ordered favorably reported by voice vote.

#### ROLLCALL VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each rollcall vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against. There were no rollcall votes on this resolution.

## COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

## COST OF LEGISLATION

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 34 is a sense of the House resolution and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, there is no cost associated with this legislation for fiscal year 2007, nor for any fiscal year thereafter.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs to the appropriate levels under current law is required.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no statement of general performance and objectives for any measure that authorizes funding is required.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no cost estimate nor comparison for any measure that authorizes funding is required.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(I) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, committee reports on a bill or joint resolution of a public character shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the measure. The Committee on Science and Technology finds that Congress has the authority to enact this measure pursuant to its powers granted under article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

## FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Resolution contains no federal mandates.

## PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee states that H. Con. Res. 34 does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are created by this legislation.

## APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act. (Public Law 104–1.)

## CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

H. Con. Res. makes no changes in existing law.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Chairman GORDON. Next, we will take up H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian. I recognize Ms. Johnson for 5 minutes to speak on this bill.

Ms. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for considering this resolution—honoring the life of Dr. Percy Lavon Julian.

Dr. Julian was an outstanding chemist, and as a Black man, overcame countless obstacles to achieve international recognition for his scientific accomplishments. He spent his youth in Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama. When he decided to leave home and go to college in Indiana, his entire family came to see him off at the train station, including his 99-year-old grandmother, a former slave. His grandfather was also there. His grandfather's right hand was two fingers short. The fingers had been cut off for violating the code for forbidding slaves to read and write.

But in Indiana, at DePaul University, Dr. Julian lived in the attic of a fraternity house. His support and tuition came from his earnings as a waiter. Often, he worked as a ditch digger during the day and attended classes in the evening. Though at the top of his class in college, he was discouraged from pursuing graduate studies because of potential racial sentiment on the part of future coworkers and employers. Nevertheless, he earned a fellowship to study chemistry at Harvard University where he received his masters degree, and in 1931, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna.

Dr. Julian synthesized a chemical treatment for glaucoma and he synthesized cortisone for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. He is also noted for inventing a foam to extinguish gasoline in oil fires that was used during World War II. Over the course of his career, he acquired over 115 patents. He received wide recognition by the scientific community for his research and was elected into the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. He was a bright, talented individual who excelled in life in the face of overwhelming challenges.

And so my bill, this House Concurrent Resolution, honors his life. There are 12 original co-sponsors as well as a partnership with Senator Obama who is handling the bill in the Senate. And I am pleased that the House Committee on Science and Technology has agreed to expedite this bill. As a black chemist of international fame, Dr. Julian is a role model for the future generations of minority scientists. I feel it is important to lift up women and minori-

ties who excelled in science, math, and engineering. We need the role models.

I hope the Committee will consider policies to encourage more women and minorities to pursue careers where I have spent a lot of time, as the Chairman knows, in science, technology, engineering, and math. They need more help than is currently being provided. I want also to say that Dr. Julian's life will be on public television on February 6th. I understand it is 2 hours long. So I am not sure that I recommend watching all of the 2 hours.

Mr. Chairman, I recommend that this resolution pass, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman GORDON. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Ehlers for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHLERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As a principal co-sponsor of this resolution, and also as a fellow scientist, I am very pleased to honor one of our Nation's greatest scientists, Dr. Percy Lavon Julian. The breadth and depth of his work left a profound legacy that inspires us all.

Dr. Julian was not defined by a single discipline. Rather, he set an example of what an innovative mind is capable of achieving, against all odds. His ingenious cortisone synthesis dropped the price of the drug's production, allowing it to be made available to many people suffering from joint pain and other inflammations. While many remember him for his novel synthesis of glaucoma and rheumatoid arthritis drugs, Percy Julian is also noted for inventing a fire-extinguishing foam for gasoline and oil fires. His inventions are even more notable because of the world in which they took place. At a time when there were very few faculty positions available to African Americans in the United States, Dr. Julian built his research portfolio by finding opportunities at all-Black universities and also overseas universities.

Through his many years of teaching, he became known as a first-class educator and a man who always looked to build bridges between races. For this reason, he is remembered as both an eminent scientist and a public servant. It is my hope that pioneers like Dr. Julian will inspire the students of today, who wonder why they need to persevere in studying science and math, and will encourage them that these skills can directly benefit the public good.

Today, we still do not have minorities and women well represented in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Despite efforts to reverse these trends, in the last 10 years, the percentage of black engineering undergraduate students has steadily declined. While the minority share of advanced degrees in science and engineering is improving as a whole, the physical and computer sciences disciplines still suffer dramatic under-representation by women and minorities.

I am pleased the Committee is considering this resolution, and I thank my colleague, Ms. Johnson, for introducing the resolution, and I urge its adoption.

[The statement follows:]

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE VERNON J. EHLERS

I am pleased to honor one of our nation's greatest scientists, Dr. Percy Lavon Julian. The breadth and depth of his work left a profound legacy that inspires us all.

Dr. Julian was not defined by a single discipline; rather, he set an example of what an innovative mind is capable of achieving, against all odds. His ingenious cor-

tisone synthesis dropped the price of the drug's production, allowing it to be made available to many people suffering from joint pain and other inflammation. While many remember him for his novel synthesis of glaucoma and rheumatoid arthritis drugs, Percy Julian is also noted for inventing a fire-extinguishing foam for gasoline and oil fires.

His inventions are even more notable because of the world in which they took place. At a time when there were very few faculty positions available to African Americans in the United States, Julian built his research portfolio by finding opportunities at all-black universities and overseas. Through his many years of teaching, he became known as a first-class educator, and a man who always looked to build bridges between races. For this reason, he is remembered as both an eminent scientist and a public servant.

It is my hope that pioneers like Dr. Julian will inspire the students of today who wonder why they need to persevere in studying science and math and will encourage them that these skills can directly benefit the public good. Today we still do not have minorities and women well-represented in science, technology, engineering and math fields. Despite efforts to reverse these trends, in the last ten years the percentage of black engineering undergraduate students has steadily declined. While the minority share of advanced degrees in science and engineering is improving as a whole, the physical and computer sciences disciplines still suffer dramatic underrepresentation by women and minorities.

I am pleased the Committee is considering this bill, and thank my colleague Mrs. Johnson for introducing the Resolution.

Chairman GORDON. Thank you, Mr. Ehlers. Without objection, all members' opening statements will be placed in the record at this point.

And let me thank Ms. Johnson, also, not only for entering this resolution, but more importantly, for her many years of tireless work in trying to move forward minority and women into these fields. It is important. This Committee will continue those efforts, and I appreciate Ms. Johnson's leadership there.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill is considered as read and open to amendment at all point—at any point.

Without objection, so ordered.

[H. Con. Res. 34 follows:]

#### H. CON. RES. 34

Whereas Percy Julian was born on April 11, 1899, in Montgomery, Alabama, the son of a railway clerk and the first member of his family to attend college, graduating from DePauw University in 1920, receiving a M.S. degree from Harvard University in 1923 and a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in 1931;

Whereas in 1935 Dr. Julian became the first to discover a process to synthesize physostigmine, the drug used in the treatment of glaucoma;

Whereas Dr. Julian later pioneered a commercial process to synthesize cortisone from soy beans and yams, enabling the widespread use of cortisone as an affordable treatment of arthritis;

Whereas Dr. Julian was the first African American chemist elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1973 for his lifetime of scientific accomplishments, held over 130 patents at the time of his death in 1975, and dedicated much of his life to the advancement of African Americans in the sciences; and

Whereas Dr. Julian's life story has been documented in the PBS NOVA film "Forgotten Genius": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*  
That the Congress honors the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the

first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

Chairman GORDON. Are there amendments? Hearing none, the vote is on the bill H. Con. Res. 34. All of those in favor, say aye. All of those opposed, no. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

I now recognize Mr. Hall to offer a motion.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee favorably report H. Con. Res. 34 to the House with the recommendation that the bill do pass. Furthermore, I move that the staff be instructed to prepare the legislative report and make necessary technical and conforming changes and that the Chairman take all necessary steps to bring the bill before the House for consideration.

Chairman GORDON. The question is on the motion to report the bill favorably. Those in favor of the motion will signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid on the table. I move that members have 2 subsequent calendar days in which to submit supplemental minority or additional views on the measure. I move pursuant to Clause 1 of Rule 22 of the Rules of the House of Representatives that the Committee authorize the Chairman to offer such motions as may be necessary in the House to adopt and pass H. Con. Res. 34. Without objection, so ordered.

