

One Hundred Eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the seventh day of January, two thousand and three*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927, and lived with her family in Harlem during the 1930's and 1940's;

Whereas Althea Gibson was first introduced to tennis on the Harlem River Tennis Courts and went on to dominate the all-black American Tennis Association tournaments throughout the early 1940's, when racism and segregation prevented her from participating in tournaments sponsored by the American Lawn Tennis Association;

Whereas Althea Gibson graduated from Florida A&M University in 1953, and was an athletic instructor at the Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri;

Whereas Althea Gibson was the first African-American player, either male or female, to be allowed to enter the Forrest Hills, New York, Championship in 1950, after her talents and celebrity forced the American Lawn Tennis Association to reevaluate its policy;

Whereas Althea Gibson was the first African-American invited to Wimbledon in 1951, eventually winning both the women's singles and doubles in 1957, after which she was greeted by New York City with a ticker tape parade;

Whereas Althea Gibson was the first African-American woman to win the championship at the French Open, in 1956;

Whereas Althea Gibson after finishing her amateur tennis career became a professional golfer in 1959 and won the women's tennis professional singles in 1960;

Whereas Althea Gibson was Athletic Commissioner for the State of New Jersey from 1975 to 1977; and

Whereas Althea Gibson was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1971, and to the International Women's Sports Hall of Fame in 1980: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Althea Gibson should

H. Con. Res. 69—2

be recognized for her ground breaking athletic achievements and
for continuing to serve as a role model for the Nation's youth.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.