

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 101

Urging the President to present posthumously a Presidential Citizens Medal to Frederick Douglass in recognition of his achievements in civil rights and service to the nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Urging the President to present posthumously a Presidential Citizens Medal to Frederick Douglass in recognition of his achievements in civil rights and service to the nation.

Whereas abolitionist, editor, orator, reformer, and civil rights activist Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential African-American leaders of the nineteenth century;

Whereas the fourth of seven children born to a field hand in Talbot County, Maryland, Frederick Douglass escaped slavery with great adversity to become a forefather in civil and women's rights;

Whereas throughout his extraordinary life, Frederick Douglass gained international prominence for his lecturing and autobiographical writings, in which he detailed the callousness of slavery;

Whereas his notoriety was largely attributed to the founding of the North Star, a weekly newspaper that not only spoke against slavery and oppression but also served as a station on the Underground Railroad;

Whereas Douglass' achievements were also highlighted by a successful political career; and

Whereas he served as an advisor to Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo by President Ulysses S. Grant, was appointed U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and was named Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in 1881 by President James L. Garfield, all of which were firsts for African-Americans: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
 - 2 (1) recognizes and honors Frederick Douglass' unwavering dedication to equality and civil rights;
 - 4 (2) acknowledges the profound contributions Frederick Douglass made to American history;
 - 6 (3) nominates Frederick Douglass to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal; and
 - 8 (4) urges the President to award a Presidential Citizens Medal in honor of Frederick Douglass.

