

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 386

Honoring the life and accomplishments of Althea Gibson, a pioneer who left an indelible mark on sports, breaking the color barrier in the sport of tennis in the 1950s and helping pave the way for future generations of black athletes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. WYNN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and accomplishments of Althea Gibson, a pioneer who left an indelible mark on sports, breaking the color barrier in the sport of tennis in the 1950s and helping pave the way for future generations of black athletes.

Whereas Althea Gibson was an African-American pioneer who left an indelible mark on sports as she broke the color barrier in the sport of tennis in the 1950s and helped pave the way for future generations of black athletes;

Whereas, on Sunday, September 28, 2003, Gibson died at the age of 76;

Whereas although the general public had largely forgotten her name and exploits, Gibson was a giant of sports history;

Whereas Gibson was the first African-American woman champion in any sport;

Whereas Gibson was a self-described “born athlete” who broke racial barriers not only in tennis but in the Ladies Professional Golf Association;

Whereas Gibson was the first black woman to compete at and win the Wimbledon and United States national tennis titles, and she was also the first black player on the Ladies Professional Golfers Association Tour;

Whereas her presence helped pave the way for later stars such as Arthur Ashe, Venus and Serena Williams, and Tiger Woods;

Whereas Gibson captured the Wimbledon and United States championships in 1957 and 1958, and also won the French Open, and 3 Wimbledon doubles titles (1956–58);

Whereas, the eldest of five children, Gibson was raised in the Harlem section of New York City; and

Whereas a multi-sport athlete, she even toured with the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team after retiring from tennis in the late 1950s: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors
- 2 the life and accomplishments of Althea Gibson, a pioneer
- 3 who left an indelible mark on sports, breaking the color
- 4 barrier in the sport of tennis in the 1950s and helping
- 5 pave the way for future generations of black athletes.

