

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 509

Honoring and recognizing the achievements of Thurgood Marshall and encouraging Congress to award him the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2004

Mr. PAYNE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Honoring and recognizing the achievements of Thurgood Marshall and encouraging Congress to award him the Congressional Gold Medal.

Whereas Thurgood Marshall, the grandson of a slave, was born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 2, 1908;

Whereas in his youth, Thurgood Marshall developed an interest in the Constitution and the rule of law;

Whereas despite graduating from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1930 with honors, Thurgood Marshall was denied acceptance at the all-white University of Maryland Law School because he was an African American;

Whereas Thurgood Marshall instead attended law school at Howard University, the country's most prominent black university, and graduated first in his class in 1933;

Whereas from 1940 to 1961, Thurgood Marshall served as the legal director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP);

Whereas beginning with the case of *Chambers v. Florida* in 1940, Thurgood Marshall argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court and won 29 of them, earning more Supreme Court victories than any other individual;

Whereas under his leadership, the NAACP fought to abolish segregation in schools and challenged laws that discriminated against African Americans;

Whereas in 1954, Thurgood Marshall argued *Brown v. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court, a case which resulted in the famous decision that declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional, overturning the 1896 decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*;

Whereas in 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Thurgood Marshall to the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit despite heavy opposition from many southern Senators;

Whereas Thurgood Marshall served on the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit from 1961–1965, during which time he wrote 112 opinions, none of which was overturned on appeal;

Whereas in 1965, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall to the position of Solicitor General, a post he held from 1965–1967;

Whereas in 1967, President Johnson appointed Thurgood Marshall as the first African American Justice to serve on the Supreme Court;

Whereas during the 24 years he served on the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall promoted affirmative action and sought protection for the rights of all Americans, continuing to support integration but also championing the rights of women, children, prisoners, and the homeless; and

Whereas Thurgood Marshall died on January 24, 1993 at the age of 84: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) honors the dedication and achievements of
- 3 the late Thurgood Marshall;
- 4 (2) calls upon Americans to recognize the con-
- 5 tributions of Thurgood Marshall to the struggle for
- 6 equal rights and justice in the United States; and
- 7 (3) encourages Congress to award Thurgood
- 8 Marshall the Congressional Gold Medal.

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