

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 96

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2005

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the significance of African American women in
the United States scientific community.

Whereas African American women, once considered nontraditional participants in the United States scientific community, have become an indispensable part of the new technology society;

Whereas although women comprise approximately 25 percent of the 427,740 individuals employed in the United States workforce who hold a science and engineering doctoral

degree, African American women comprise less than one percent of such individuals;

Whereas a skilled workforce is the essential fuel to propel the United States economy and ensure a high quality of life, and it is absolutely critical to the success of the economy to produce a scientifically literate workforce;

Whereas for these reasons, it is crucial for the United States to continue to aggressively recruit more minority and women students into careers in science and technology;

Whereas to improve the numbers of African American youth pursuing science, especially young women, it is crucial to provide strong scientific minds for them to look up to and emulate;

Whereas very little literature documents African American women and their place in science;

Whereas commemorating the achievements of African American women at the very top of the performance curve demonstrates to the world the importance of diversity in the workforce; and

Whereas Dr. Ruth Ella Moore (who in 1933 became the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in natural science from the Ohio State University), Dr. Roger Arliner Young (who in 1940 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Euphemia Lofton Haynes (who in 1943 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Catholic University of America), Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson (who in 1973 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachu-

setts Institute of Technology), and Dr. Mae Jemison (a physician and the first African American woman in space) represent only a few of the African American women who have broken through many barriers to achieve greatness in science: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress acknowledges and recognizes
 3 the significant achievements and contributions of African
 4 American women scientists, mathematicians, and inven-
 5 tors and supports the establishment of a special day on
 6 which these great minds may be honored and esteemed.

Passed the House of Representatives April 26, 2005.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.