

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 204

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Pasqualine J. Gibbons of Denver, Colorado, an African American woman who valiantly served her country in the Army Air Corps during World War II, was unfairly passed over for promotion and should have held the grade of technical sergeant, rather than private first class, upon her discharge from the service on January 2, 1946.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2005

Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WATT, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Pasqualine J. Gibbons of Denver, Colorado, an African American woman who valiantly served her country in the Army Air Corps during World War II, was unfairly passed over for promotion and should have held the grade of technical sergeant, rather than private first class, upon her discharge from the service on January 2, 1946.

Whereas Pasqualine J. Gibbons, of Denver, Colorado, honorably served in the Army Air Corps from July 29, 1944, to January 2, 1946;

Whereas Ms. Gibbons, while in the Army Air Corps, served as a psychiatric social worker following basic training;

Whereas despite the efforts of and directives from the military to incorporate African Americans into the Army Air Corps during World War II, many commanders nevertheless demonstrated an unwillingness to treat African Americans with full equality;

Whereas the policy of “separate but equal” in the Army Air Corps during World War II oftentimes led to second-class citizenship for African Americans, resulting in fewer opportunities for advancement for African Americans and an unwillingness to promote African Americans to a higher military rank when such a promotion was due;

Whereas Ms. Gibbons was passed over and denied promotion several times, notwithstanding her receipt of a total of eight letters of commendation by the time of her discharge from military service;

Whereas in a letter of commendation, dated December 7, 1945, Captain Ian N. J. Fogeling, stated that Ms. Gibbons performed her work in a superior manner and that she had been “repeatedly recommended for well-deserved promotions . . . and despite our having repeatedly recommended her, these were not forthcoming due to administrative difficulties and technicalities entirely outside of our control.”;

Whereas Ms. Gibbons was discharged from military service in the grade of private first class, rather than in a higher grade that she would have held but for having been passed over and denied promotion;

Whereas Ms. Gibbons has not been able to sufficiently reconstruct her military record due to the destruction of mili-

tary records in the fire at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973;

Whereas Ms. Gibbons has requested a correction of her military records from the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records 1997, but was denied on the grounds that her military record was incomplete and Ms. Gibbons' appeal of this ruling to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment was denied on similar grounds; and

Whereas Ms. Gibbons is a 97-year old veteran who deserves to receive the recognition for her service during World War II due to her: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that Pasqualine J. Gibbons of Denver, Colo-
 3 rado, while in the Army Air Corps during World War II,
 4 was unfairly passed over for promotion and should have
 5 held the grade of technical sergeant, rather than private
 6 first class, upon her discharge from the service on January
 7 2, 1946.

○