

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 33

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative stamp honoring the life of Maya Angelou.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative stamp honoring the life of Maya Angelou.

Whereas Dr. Maya Angelou, was born Marguerite Ann Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928, and raised in Arkansas;

Whereas Maya Angelou was a prominent and celebrated author, poet, educator, producer, actress, filmmaker, and civil rights activist;

Whereas hailed for her talents as a performing artist at an early age, Maya Angelou toured Europe with a production of the Gershwin opera Porgy and Bess in 1955 and released her first album in 1957;

Whereas Maya Angelou was active in the civil rights movement and was a personal friend of both Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X;

Whereas Maya Angelou served as a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the civil rights movement;

Whereas in 1969, Maya Angelou wrote the autobiography “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”, which catapulted her to international acclaim for its vivid and honest depiction of the experience of Black women in the Jim Crow era;

Whereas Maya Angelou has published more than 30 best-selling titles, including her collection of poems, “Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water ’fore I Diie”, which earned her a Pulitzer Prize nomination;

Whereas Maya Angelou wrote the screenplay and composed the score for the 1972 film “Georgia, Georgia”; her script, the first by an African-American woman to be filmed;

Whereas Maya Angelou served in various capacities to several Presidents of the United States, including President Gerald Ford, who appointed her to the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, and President Jimmy Carter, who appointed her to serve on the Presidential Commission for the International Year of the Woman;

Whereas Maya Angelou was the first African-American to serve as an Inaugural Poet, authoring and reciting the poem “On the Pulse of Morning” in 1993;

Whereas Maya Angelou was a trailblazer in literature and poetry who bravely explored the ways in which socially marginalizing forces affected African-American women;

Whereas Maya Angelou was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011, the Lincoln Medal in 2008, and the National Medal of Arts in 2000 for her exceptional contributions to American culture as an author and poet;

Whereas Maya Angelou passed away on May 28, 2014, in her North Carolina home at age 86, leaving behind a legacy of literacy achievement and an indelible mark on the movement for civil rights; and

Whereas issuing a postage stamp honoring Maya Angelou is fitting and proper: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the Postmaster General should issue a com-
4 memorative postage stamp honoring Maya Angelou;
5 and

6 (2) such stamp should—

7 (A) be issued in the denomination used for
8 first-class mail up to 1 ounce in weight;

9 (B) bear such illustration or picture as the
10 Postmaster General determines; and

11 (C) be placed in sale at such time and for
12 such period as the Postmaster General deter-
13 mines.

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