

When my own great State of Illinois reached beyond race and gender to embrace my candidacy, and carry me to an election triumph, they gave all of America a wonderful victory. It was first and foremost a victory for "We the People," a resounding advancement and maturing of the American character, that it should promote leadership on the basis of individual contributions and vision, not on the basis of race and gender.

Yes indeed, the people of Illinois can be proud of the patriotism and love of country, which prompted this ultimate fulfillment of our Founding Fathers and mothers visions for what we could become. Like the people of Massachusetts who elected Senator Brooks before me, the victory was a mark of progress that all leadership and all participation. An act of inclusion that recognizes the worthiness of all facets of American life, and the need for all of America to benefit from that experience and expertise.

African-American history month is a celebration for all of us. It is not just for black children deprived of role models and heroes of their heritage. It is not just for white children, who are fed media images of African-Americans as drug dealers and gang bangers. It is a celebration for all of us, and a time for reflection on the kind of America we want to leave as our legacy. But most of all, it provides us with an opportunity for truth telling. Because there are tens of thousands of ordinary black Americans who have made significant contributions in the arts, literature, politics, science, business and community service. Most importantly of all, black history teaches that we all have a role to play in making this country great. We all had played a role in shaping the past, and we all have a role to play in shaping the future. All of us—African, Irish, Italian, Heinz 57 variety, we are all Americans and we will all individually and collectively make the decision today which will determine tomorrow.

That is why this salute to Hiram Revels, Blanche Bruce, and Ed Brooks is a salute to America and a celebration of the history of the contribution of Americans of African descent.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 229) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 229

Whereas, Black History Month in 1996 is a fitting occasion to direct public attention to the many significant contributions which have been made by African-American citi-

zens in government service to the people of the United States of America; and

Whereas, 125 years ago on February 25, 1870, Republican Hiram Rhodes Revels of Natchez, Mississippi was seated as the first Black citizen to serve in the United States Senate; and

Whereas, the service of Senator Revels, an ordained minister of the Christian Gospel, was distinguished by conscientious support for desegregated public education, reconciliation, equal political opportunity and veterans' benefits and by opposition to discrimination in government employment and political corruption; and

Whereas, Blanche Kelso Bruce of Bolivar County, Mississippi, whose term commenced on March 5, 1875, became the first Black citizen to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate and distinguished himself by supporting equality in Western state land grants, desegregation in the U.S. Army, electoral fairness, equitable treatment of Native Americans and by opposing fraud and incompetence in governmental affairs; and

Whereas, Edward William Brooke of Newton, Massachusetts on January 3, 1967 became the first Black citizen to be elected directly by the people to serve in the U.S. Senate (and then was re-elected), distinguished himself by supporting American history awareness, racial reconciliation initiatives, strengthened foreign relations, stronger higher education, improved veterans' benefits, affordable housing and the performing arts; and

Whereas, Carol Moseley-Braun of Chicago, Illinois on January 3, 1993 became the first Black woman and the first Black member of the Democrat Party to be seated in the U.S. Senate and is currently distinguishing herself for her resolute commitment to equal opportunity in education, advocacy of women's and children's rights, support for business entrepreneurship, expanded economic opportunity, equity for family farmers and fiscal responsibility and for her forceful opposition to all forms of crime; and

Whereas, on February 29, 1996 the African-American Alliance, the James E. Chaney Foundation, and Local 372 of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, are sponsoring ceremonies in the U.S. Capitol Building to pay tribute to the pioneering legacy of these intrepid and highly esteemed role models; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the United States Senate does hereby join in honoring these inspiring legislators and expresses profound gratitude for their innumerable substantive contributions to the pursuit of justice, fairness, equality and opportunity for all U.S. citizens.

MEASURE SEQUENTIALLY  
REFERRED—S. 1186

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reports S. 1186 regarding the Flathead Irrigation and Power Project, the bill be sequentially referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs for a period of 20 days, excluding days when the Senate is not in session; further, that if the Indian Affairs Committee has not reported the measure at the end of 20 session days, the bill be discharged from the committee and placed back on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STAR PRINT—S. 1535

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, S. 1535, be star printed with the changes that I understand are presently at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF A REVIEW OF CASES OF GALLANTRY AND HEROISM BY BLACK AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 230, submitted earlier today by Senator INHOFE, for himself and Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 230) to urge the President to announce at the earliest opportunity the results of the Senior Army Decorations Board which reviewed certain cases of gallantry and heroism by black Americans during World War II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] be added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 230.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 230) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 230

Whereas black Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II with heroism and distinction, often giving their lives to ensure United States victory in that war;

Whereas prevailing attitudes in the Armed Forces at that time often prevented appropriate recognition of the distinguished service of black Americans, particularly service meriting the award of the medal of honor;

Whereas in May 1993, the Secretary of the Army convened a study to review the processes and procedures used by the Department of the Army in awarding medals during World War II in order to determine whether racial bias and procedural violations resulted in medals not being awarded to black American members of the Army for their acts of distinguished or heroic service in that war;

Whereas the study recommended the review of the distinguished acts of 10 black