

H. Res. 94

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

September 5, 2002.

Whereas, although Venus and Serena Williams are only 20 and 19 years old and only in their sixth and third full years as professional tennis players respectively, they have over 43 professional titles between them;

Whereas Venus and Serena Williams have broken racial and socioeconomic barriers with pride and poise by showing the world that tennis is a sport for all people;

Whereas Venus Williams is the first African-American woman to win the Wimbledon Championships since 1958, is the first United States woman since 1924 to win an Olympic gold medal in both singles and doubles, holds the women's world record for the fastest serve at 127 miles per hour, and is one of only seven women to win the singles titles in both the Wimbledon Championships and the U.S. Open in the same year;

Whereas Serena Williams is only the second African-American woman ever to win a Grand Slam singles title, is only the sixth American woman to win the U.S. Open singles title since 1968, is only the fifth woman to win both singles and doubles Grand Slam titles in the same year, and is the first woman to reach the finals in a U.S. Open debut since 1978;

Whereas Venus and Serena Williams are the first sisters in professional tennis history to each win a Grand Slam singles title, the first to be ranked in the top ten simultaneously since 1991, the first to win a Grand Slam doubles title together, the first to compete against one another in a Women's Tennis Association Tour final, and the first to win an Olympic gold medal in doubles together;

Whereas Venus and Serena Williams have inspired and encouraged people of all backgrounds and ages, especially those in their hometown of Compton, California, demonstrating through the spirit of sport that education, a good work ethic, teamwork, fortitude, and determination are ingredients for success;

Whereas Venus and Serena Williams are African-American role models, coached to excellence by their father, and encouraged by both parents to be leaders, to demonstrate high moral and ethical standards, to value education, and to never stray from these family values; and

Whereas Venus and Serena Williams have been beacons of light to their community, passing out tennis rackets and conducting tennis clinics for low income children, raising funds for community development, and joining our Nation's leaders in support of the Department of Transportation's seat belt campaign "Buckle Up America!": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors and recognizes the achievements and strides made by Venus and Serena Williams by giving back to their community, promoting excellence, breaking

barriers with pride and poise, showing that tennis is a sport for all people; and

(2) urges all Americans to recognize the contributions to American society made by Venus and Serena Williams through their achievements and community involvement.

Attest:

Clerk.