

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 59

Recognizes the significant achievements and contributions of African-American scientists, mathematicians, and inventors, and supporting the establishment of a special day on which these great minds may be honored and esteemed.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. FROST, Mr. WYNN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. LEE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BALLANCE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MAJETTE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. WATT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Science

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizes the significant achievements and contributions of African-American scientists, mathematicians, and inventors, and supporting the establishment of a special day on which these great minds may be honored and esteemed.

Whereas the historical experience of Americans of African descent began more than 5,000 years B.C.E., with notable

scientists, mathematicians, and inventors such as Imhotep, who is recognized by contemporary historians as the first architect, a pioneer in mathematics, an eminent sage and patron of scribes, a respected leader among early Egyptian and Greek civilizations, builder of the first pyramid, and the physician upon whose knowledge and teachings about human anatomy and the functions of the major organs modern medicine rests;

Whereas African-Americans have earned an undeniable role in the development of the culture of this Nation, contributing major inventions and scientific discoveries, among other things, that enrich the quality of life for all mankind;

Whereas the scientific and technological contributions of African-Americans to the world are largely absent from history books;

Whereas the ethos of this rich and proud people, descendants of kings and queens, has been passed down to generations through whispered tales by a remnant of African-American ancestors who understood the relationship between honor, respect, and appreciation of heritage and culture, and the vision and success of future generations;

Whereas it is with this spirit that we recognize and celebrate the creative genius and contributions of Annie Easley, Sharon J. Barnes, Thomas L. Jennings, Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, David Blackwell, David N. Crosthwait, Elijah McCoy, Clarence A. Ellis, Phillip Emeagwali, Charles R. Drew, Sarah E. Goode, Granville T. Woods, Lewis H. Latimer, Meredith C. Gourdine, Ernest E. Just, Evelyn Boyd Granville, Norbert Rillieux, Mae C. Jemison, George Carruthers, Garret A. Morgan, J. Ernest Wilkins, Sarah Boone, and numerous other African-Americans

whose great achievements evidence a vast pool of untapped intellect;

Whereas education has been the social, economic, and political gatekeeper for African-Americans, and will become increasingly so for students of color desiring to participate fully in the scientific and technological innovations of the new millennium;

Whereas although progress has been made in the educational attainment of African-Americans, they remain less likely than whites and Asians to graduate from high school, enroll in college, graduate from college, and pursue graduate and professional degrees;

Whereas African-Americans represent approximately 12 percent of the population in the United States, but only 3 percent of the total science and engineering labor force, less than 1 percent of scientists and engineers, 2 percent of doctoral scientists and engineers, and 1 quarter of 1 percent of computer scientists;

Whereas if the declining number and percentage of African-American high school and college students choosing careers that require undergraduate and advanced degrees in science and mathematics continues unabated, the serious shortage of African-American scientists, mathematicians, physicians, computer scientists, and inventors would cause serious harm to the Nation's leadership in scientific research;

Whereas the dreams and aspirations of too many African-American youth have withered and must be revitalized with the message that they descend from a proud and noble people who expected and settled for nothing less

than excellence in every endeavor, and whose greatness has left an indelible mark on the world;

Whereas it is vital that the citizens of this Nation, especially young African-Americans, realize and appreciate the important contributions of their ancestors and contemporaries to past and present society; and

Whereas to fulfill the Nation's commitment to equal opportunity and prosperity for every citizen, it is imperative that African-American youth and people of all races and ages realize that the fields of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology are available and accessible to everyone: 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 scientists, mathematicians, and inventors, and
 5 supports the establishment of a special day on which these
 6 great minds may be honored and esteemed.

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