

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 96

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the significance of African American women in the United States scientific community.

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Whereas African American women, once considered nontraditional participants in the United States scientific community, have become an indispensable part of the new technology society;

Whereas although women comprise approximately 25 percent of the 427,740 individuals employed in the United States workforce who hold a science and engineering doctoral

degree, African American women comprise less than one percent of such individuals;

Whereas a skilled workforce is the essential fuel to propel the United States economy and ensure a high quality of life, and it is absolutely critical to the success of the economy to produce a scientifically literate workforce;

Whereas for these reasons, it is crucial for the United States to continue to aggressively recruit more minority and women students into careers in science and technology;

Whereas to improve the numbers of African American youth pursuing science, especially young women, it is crucial to provide strong scientific minds for them to look up to and emulate;

Whereas very little literature documents African American women and their place in science;

Whereas commemorating the achievements of African American women at the very top of the performance curve demonstrates to the world the importance of diversity in the workforce; and

Whereas Dr. Ruth Ella Moore (who in 1933 became the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in natural science from the Ohio State University), Dr. Roger Arliner Young (who in 1940 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Euphemia Lofton Haynes (who in 1943 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Catholic University of America), Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson (who in 1973 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Dr. Mae Jemison (a

physician and the first African American woman in space) represent only a few of the African American women who have broken through many barriers to achieve greatness in science: 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 women scientists, mathematicians, and inven-
5 tors and supports the establishment of a special day on
6 which these great minds may be honored and esteemed.

Passed the House of Representatives April 26, 2005.

Attest:

Clerk.