

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1090

Honoring the esteemed former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2008

Mr. JEFFERSON (for himself and Mr. PAYNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Honoring the esteemed former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Whereas Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa on July 18, 1918;

Whereas he joined the African National Congress (“ANC”) in 1944 and was engaged in resistance against the ruling National Party’s apartheid policies after 1948;

Whereas, after the banning of the ANC in 1960, Nelson Mandela led the effort to set up of a military wing within the ANC;

Whereas, in 1964, when many fellow leaders of the ANC and the Umkhonto we Sizwe were arrested, Nelson Mandela was brought to stand trial with them for plotting to overthrow the government by violence;

Whereas his statement from the dock received considerable international publicity, on June 12, 1964, 8 of the accused, including Nelson Mandela, were sentenced to life imprisonment;

Whereas, from 1964 to 1982, Nelson Mandela was incarcerated at Robben Island Prison, off Cape Town; thereafter, he was at Pollsmoor Prison, nearby on the mainland;

Whereas Nelson Mandela consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom while in prison;

Whereas the Congressional Black Caucus was instrumental in bringing an end to South Africa's apartheid system;

Whereas, under the leadership of Representative Ronald V. Dellums and after nearly 14 years of battle, in 1986, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 was finally agreed to by both Houses of Congress, calling for sanctions against South Africa and stated preconditions for lifting the sanctions, including the release of all political prisoners including Nelson Mandela;

Whereas this bill was so strong that it withstood a veto by President Reagan making this the first time in the 20th century that a President had a foreign policy veto overridden;

Whereas Nelson Mandela became widely accepted as the most significant black leader in South Africa and in the world and became a potent symbol of resistance as the anti-apartheid movement gathered strength;

Whereas Nelson Mandela was released on February 11, 1990;

Whereas, after his release, he plunged himself wholeheartedly into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost 4 decades earlier;

Whereas, in 1991, at the first national conference of the ANC held inside South Africa after the organization had been banned in 1960, Nelson Mandela was elected President of the ANC;

Whereas South Africa's first democratic elections in which full enfranchisement was granted were held on April 27, 1994, and Nelson Mandela, as leader of the ANC, was inaugurated on May 10, 1994, as the country's first black President;

Whereas, as President from May 1994 until June 1999, Nelson Mandela presided over the transition from minority rule and apartheid, winning international respect for his advocacy of national and international reconciliation; and

Whereas Nelson Mandela has received many South African, foreign, and international honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 (which was shared with Frederik Willem de Klerk), the Order of Merit and the Order of St. John from Queen Elizabeth II and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the United States House of Rep-
2 resentatives—

3 (1) honors former President Nelson Rolihlahla
4 Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday on
5 July 18, 2008, and extends best wishes to him and
6 his family;

7 (2) honors his many accomplishments;

1 (3) congratulates him for his efforts to promote
2 dialogue to peacefully resolve conflicts between peo-
3 ple in Africa and around the world; and

4 (4) celebrates his contributions to South Africa,
5 the United States, and the international community.

○