

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 350

Recognizing November 14, 2009, as the 49th anniversary of the first day
of integrated schools in New Orleans, Louisiana.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing November 14, 2009, as the 49th anniversary
of the first day of integrated schools in New Orleans,
Louisiana.

Whereas, in 1954, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated
schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th
amendment to the Constitution;

Whereas Judge J. Skelly Wright, of the United States Dis-
trict Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, ordered
the Orleans Parish School Board to develop a school de-
segregation plan in 1956 and, after years of delay, in
1960, ordered the Orleans Parish School Board to carry
out a plan designed by the United States District Court
for the Eastern District of Louisiana;

Whereas 6 years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* (347
U.S. 483) decision, on November 14, 1960, Ruby

Bridges, at the age of 6, became the first African-American student to attend the all-white William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas, in 1995, Ruby Bridges contributed to “The Story of Ruby Bridges”, a book for children, and, in 1999, wrote “Through My Eyes” to help educate children and people of all ages about her experiences and the importance of tolerance;

Whereas Ruby Bridges established the Ruby Bridges Foundation in 1999 to help eliminate racism and improve society by educating students about the experiences of Ruby Bridges, discuss ongoing efforts to promote diversity, and provide lessons students can take back to their own communities; and

Whereas, in 2002, the Ruby Bridges Foundation, along with the Simon Wiesenthal Center’s Museum for Tolerance in Los Angeles, launched The Ruby’s Bridges Project, a program that brought together students from diverse backgrounds to develop relationship-building skills and promote an appreciation of one another: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes November 14, 2009, as the 49th
3 anniversary of the first day of integrated schools in
4 New Orleans, Louisiana;

5 (2) remembers Judge J. Skelly Wright for his
6 advocacy, support, and lifelong commitment to pro-
7 moting civil rights, fairness, and equality;

1 (3) commends Ruby Bridges for her bravery
2 and courage 49 years ago, and for her lifetime com-
3 mitment to raising awareness of diversity through
4 improved educational opportunities for all children;

5 (4) supports policies and efforts to—

6 (A) close the achievement gap in the
7 schools of our Nation;

8 (B) improve the high school graduation
9 rate for all students;

10 (C) strengthen the ability of all students to
11 attend and complete post-secondary education;
12 and

13 (D) promote the benefits of school integra-
14 tion throughout the educational careers of stu-
15 dents; and

16 (5) congratulates all the individuals who have
17 dedicated their lives to the field of education and to
18 promoting equal opportunities for all students re-
19 gardless of the backgrounds of the students.

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