

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 382

Honoring the 65th anniversary of the landmark decision of the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483 (1954)).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2019

Mr. WATKINS (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. ESTES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring the 65th anniversary of the landmark decision of the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483 (1954)).

Whereas, in 1950, 9-year-old Linda Brown, the daughter of Oliver L. Brown, was denied entry into the all White Sumner Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas, and forced to attend the all Black Monroe Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas;

Whereas, on February 28, 1951, the complaint in *Brown v. Board of Education* was filed with the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, with Oliver L. Brown as the lead plaintiff;

Whereas the plaintiffs in *Brown v. Board of Education* appealed the ruling of the district court to the Supreme Court;

Whereas, at the Supreme Court, the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* was combined with other cases from South Carolina, Delaware, Virginia, and the District of Columbia regarding segregation in public schools;

Whereas Thurgood Marshall argued the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court as lead counsel for the appellants;

Whereas, on May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court delivered a unanimous opinion holding that—

(1) separate educational facilities are inherently unequal; and

(2) the “separate but equal” doctrine violated the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which states that no citizen may be denied equal protection under the law;

Whereas *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483 (1954))—

(1) overruled the 1896 decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (163 U.S. 537 (1896));

(2) ended discriminatory Jim Crow laws; and

(3) invalidated the “separate but equal” doctrine, ending segregated classrooms in Kansas and across the United States;

Whereas, in a second opinion issued on May 31, 1955, the Supreme Court decreed that schools should be desegregated with all deliberate speed;

Whereas, because of the role that Linda Brown played in ending racial segregation in the United States, Linda

Brown became a civil rights icon and continued to be a voice for school desegregation in Topeka, Kansas;

Whereas Linda Brown passed away on March 27, 2018, at the age of 75 in Topeka, Kansas; and

Whereas Congress established the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, which is located at Monroe Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas, the school that Linda Brown attended: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes and celebrates—

3 (1) the 65th anniversary of the landmark deci-
4 sion of the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of
5 Education (347 U.S. 483 (1954)); and

6 (2) the contribution the decision has made to—
7 (A) equal education; and

8 (B) equal justice under the law, which is
9 recognized in the Declaration of Independence
10 and guaranteed by the Constitution of the
11 United States.

○