

the YWCA in New York City, becoming director of the Center for Racial Justice. She became a volunteer with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), where she worked with its founder, Mary McLeod Bethune.

When Bethune died, Height became president, a position she continues to hold. NCNW, an organization of national organizations and community sections with outreach to four million women, develops model national and international community-based programs, sent scores of women to help in the Freedom Schools of the civil rights movement, and spearheaded voter registration drives. Height's collaborative leadership style brings together people of different cultures for mutual benefit.

Because of Dorothy Height's commitment to the "Black family," she has hosted the Black Family Reunion Celebration since 1986, in which almost 10 million have participated. As stated above, Dr. Height was born in Richmond, Virginia, and moved with her parents to Ranklin, Pennsylvania at an early age. Winner of a scholarship for her exceptional oratorical skills, she entered New York University where she earned the Bachelor and Master degrees in 4 years.

While working as a caseworker for the welfare department in New York, Dr. Height joined the NCNW in 1937 and her career as a pioneer in civil rights activities began to unfold. She served on the national staff of the YWCA of USA from 1944 to 1977 where she was active in developing its leadership training and interracial and ecumenical education programs. In 1965 she inaugurated the Center for Racial Justice which is still a major initiative of the National YWCA. She served as the 10th national president of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., from 1946 to 1957 before becoming president of the NCNW in 1958.

Working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph and others, Dr. Height participated in virtually all major civil and human rights events in the 1950's and 1960's. For her tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, President Ronald Reagan presented her the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service to the country in 1989.

Dr. Height is known for her extensive international and developmental education work. She initiated the sole African American private voluntary organization working in Africa in 1975, building on the success of NCNW's assignments in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America.

In three decades of national leadership, she has served on major policy-making bodies affecting women, social welfare, economic development, and civil and human rights, and has received numerous appointments and awards. As president of NCNW, Dorothy Irene Height has an outstanding record of accomplishments. As a self-help advocate, she has been instrumental in the initiation of NCNW sponsored food, child care, housing and career educational programs that embody the principles of self-reliance. As a promotor of Black family life she conceived and organized the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values of the African American Family. Now in its ninth year, this multi-city cultural event has attracted some 11.5 million people.

Dr. Height's lifetime of achievement measures the liberation of Black America, the brilliant advance of women's rights, and the most

determined effort to lift up the poor and the powerless. Still fighting, pushing, and advocating, Dr. Dorothy Height—mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother, doctor, civil/human rights activist, and freedom fighter continues unrelentingly to serve our country in the health and most meaningfully—the civil arena at the age of 91.

Dr. Height is a commendable and formidable woman. She has wholeheartedly devoted her life to public service, struggling for social justice, the eradication and education of HIV/AIDS, unprivileged children, equal rights, voting rights, women's rights, and education opportunities for all citizens irrespective of color, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality and other markers of difference.

She as the leading lady in the civil rights movement, sitting as the only female on the planning table with Whitney Young, Dr. Martin Luther King, James Farmer, A. Phillip Randolph, and Roy Wilkins. She has been and continues to be emulated internationally. Needless to say, Dr. Height is a jewel in the African American community and an influential and exemplary leader in the country.

Many examples of her work stand out in our minds. To give just one—under her leadership of the National Negro Women's Council, she introduced and implemented many initiatives and programs geared towards the betterment of the Afro-American community, the advancement of minority women in all sectors of society, most notably, in business and non-traditional careers. Serving in all capacities imaginable, she has served distinguishably.

Dream giver and earth shaker, Dr. Dorothy Height has followed and expanded on the original purpose of the National Council of Negro Women, giving new meaning, new courage and pride to women, youth and families everywhere. While most individuals resolve to retirement at her current age, Dr. Dorothy Height continues to extend and commit herself beyond measures; she has done so not for recognition or national esteem, but as a labor of love. For the above-mentioned reasons, it is our rightful duty to honor her in recognition of her many priceless contributions to the civil growth of this nation and the beautiful legacy she will leave by awarding her a congressional gold medal.

For the above reasons, Mr. Speaker, I support H. Con. Res. 357.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 357.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 357.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 264) authorizing and requesting the President to issue a proclamation to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 264

Whereas Constantino Brumidi, born in Rome, Italy, on July 26, 1805, landed at New York Harbor on September 18, 1852, as a political exile, making his flight from Italy to the United States because of his love for liberty;

Whereas Constantino Brumidi's love for his adopted country led him to seek citizenship 2 years after his arrival;

Whereas in 1855, Constantino Brumidi began his artistic work in the Capitol, and spent more than 25 years of his life painting, decorating, and beautifying the corridors, committee rooms, and Rotunda of the Capitol;

Whereas Constantino Brumidi created many magnificent paintings and decorations, depicting the history, inventions, values, and ideals of the United States, thus enhancing the dignity and beauty of the Capitol and inspiring millions of visitors;

Whereas in 1865, Constantino Brumidi painted, in just 11 months, his masterpiece "The Apotheosis of Washington" in the canopy of the eye of the Capitol dome;

Whereas in 1871, Constantino Brumidi created the first tribute to an African-American in the Capitol when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the center of his painting of the Boston Massacre;

Whereas in 1877, at the age of 72, Constantino Brumidi began his last work, the fresco frieze encircling the top of the Rotunda, and 3 years later fell from a slipped scaffolding and was never able to return to work;

Whereas Constantino Brumidi died as a result of this experience 3 months later in February 1880;

Whereas Constantino Brumidi has been called "the Michelangelo of the Capitol" by historians; and

Whereas the year 2005 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi, as well as the 150th anniversary of the beginning of his artistic career in the Capitol and the 125th anniversary of his death: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Constantino Brumidi and calling upon the people of the United States, State and local governments, and interested organizations to commemorate this anniversary with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to offer a resolution, the fourth measure today. This bill passed