

House Resolution 41 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY ABDUL-SAMAD, KOESTER, LANDON, BROWN-POWERS,
McCONKEY, BEARINGER, STUTSMAN, HUNTER, ANDERSON,
STAED, STECKMAN, GASKILL, GAINES, MEYER, and SIECK

1 A Resolution marking more than 50 years of this
2 country's struggle for civil rights and honoring the
3 achievements of the civil rights movement.

4 WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court struck
5 down the "separate but equal" doctrine that provided
6 the basis for state-sanctioned discrimination through
7 its 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education of
8 Topeka, drawing attention to the plight of African
9 Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, a turbulent decade followed that saw
11 civil rights activists promote the use of nonviolent
12 protest and civil disobedience to bring about change
13 and produced many African-American leaders, including
14 Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X,
15 some of whom sacrificed their lives in the name of
16 freedom and equality; and

17 WHEREAS, the Southern Christian Leadership
18 Conference organized a march on March 7, 1965, from
19 Selma, Alabama, to the state capitol in Montgomery
20 that quickly ended when police attacked the protesters
21 with tear gas and clubs and inspired hundreds of civil
22 rights supporters to gather in Selma after hearing
23 accounts of the "Bloody Sunday" attack; and

24 WHEREAS, the federal government produced landmark
25 legislation with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the
26 Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Civil Rights Act of

1 1968, among others; and

2 WHEREAS, the judicial and legislative changes
3 that occurred throughout the 1950s and 1960s greatly
4 expanded the opportunities available not only to
5 African Americans, but also to other minorities,
6 women, disabled individuals, and other victims of
7 discrimination; NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
9 the House of Representatives remembers the struggle
10 of all who worked, and continue to work, to achieve
11 equality and freedom for everyone and the achievements
12 of the civil rights movement.