

House Resolution 21 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY GUSTOFF, ANDREWS, JONES, THOMSON, WILBURN, LOHSE,
R. JOHNSON, BAGNIEWSKI, and MADISON

1 A Resolution honoring the centennial anniversary of the
2 National Bar Association and its Iowa co-founders.

3 WHEREAS, in 1914, Gertrude Durden Rush graduated
4 from Des Moines College and studied law under the
5 tutelage of her attorney husband, James B. Rush; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1918, after studying at Drake University
7 and LaSalle University, Gertrude Durden Rush passed
8 the bar examination, becoming the first black woman to
9 practice law in the State of Iowa; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1924, Gertrude Durden Rush was refused
11 membership in the American Bar Association because of
12 her race; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1924, Gertrude Durden Rush co-founded
14 the Negro Bar Association in Des Moines with fellow
15 Iowa attorneys James B. Morris, Sr., George H. Woodson,
16 Charles P. Howard, Sr., S. Joe Brown, and others; and

17 WHEREAS, the Negro Bar Association became known as
18 the National Bar Association and was incorporated in
19 the State of Iowa on August 1, 1925; and

20 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association has carried
21 out its objectives to advance the science of
22 jurisprudence; improve the administration of justice;
23 preserve the independence of the judiciary and to
24 uphold the honor and integrity of the legal profession;
25 to promote professional and social intercourse among
26 the members of the American and the international
27 bars; to promote legislation that will improve the

1 economic condition of all American citizens, regardless
2 of race, sex, or creed in their efforts to secure a
3 free and untrammled use of the franchise guaranteed by
4 the Constitution of the United States; and to protect
5 the civil and political rights of the citizens and
6 residents of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association is the
8 nation's oldest and largest national network of
9 predominantly black attorneys and judges representing
10 the interests of approximately 67,000 lawyers, judges,
11 law professors, and law students; and

12 WHEREAS, the National Bar Association is organized
13 around 25 substantive law sections, 10 divisions,
14 12 regions, and 80 affiliate chapters throughout the
15 United States and around the world; and

16 WHEREAS, notable members include Charles Hamilton
17 Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, and
18 Johnnie Cochran; and

19 WHEREAS, current members of the National Bar
20 Association work in and hold leadership positions
21 in Fortune 500 companies, law firms of all sizes,
22 impactful public interest agencies, state and federal
23 governments, and leading academic institutions; NOW
24 THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
26 That the House of Representatives honors and thanks
27 the National Bar Association for 100 years of service
28 to the state and legal community, and honors and
29 recognizes the Iowans who helped found the National Bar
30 Association.