

House Resolution 8 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY R. JOHNSON, ANDREWS, BAGNIEWSKI, JAMES,
WICHTENDAHL, KRESSIG, AMOS JR., GEARHART, OLSON,
WESSEL-KROESCHELL, JUDGE, WELDON, BARKER, MADISON,
KNIFF MCCULLA, WOOD, LATHAM, BLOOMINGDALE, CROKEN,
HARRIS, NORDMAN, LOHSE, ZABNER, GJERDE, DUNWELL,
NIELSEN, JACOBY, SRINIVAS, SCHEETZ, EHLERT, McBURNEY,
SHIPLEY, GERHOLD, WILZ, MOHR, GEHLBACH, WULF, HORA,
LUNDGREN, and BOSSMAN

1 A Resolution to recognize Archie and Nancy Martin
2 and the contributions of the Martin family to the
3 education of Black students in Iowa.
4 WHEREAS, Archie and Nancy Martin were born into
5 slavery in the American South and began migrating north
6 with their six adult children in 1913, moving from
7 Austell, Georgia, to Ames, Iowa, in 1915; and
8 WHEREAS, Archie found work as an assistant to the
9 yardmaster with the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad
10 and Nancy worked as a cook for a local doctor and
11 a Greek house on the campus of the then-Iowa State
12 College; and
13 WHEREAS, Iowa State College welcomed students of
14 color, and George Washington Carver, the first Black
15 student at Iowa State College, graduated in 1896; and
16 WHEREAS, until the late 1940s, it was unofficial
17 policy at Iowa State College that Black students had
18 to room together, creating difficulties in finding
19 housing for the few Black students at Iowa State
20 College and effectively forcing them to find housing
21 off campus; and

1 WHEREAS, Archie and three of his sons built the
2 Martin House around 1919 at 218 Lincoln Way in Ames,
3 Iowa, where it still stands to this day as a local
4 historic landmark; and

5 WHEREAS, Archie always believed in education as a
6 means of getting ahead in life, and expressed concern
7 when he learned about the restrictive housing policy at
8 Iowa State College, leading him to discuss the matter
9 several times with the president of Iowa State College,
10 which eventually led to Black students having an easier
11 time finding housing on campus; and

12 WHEREAS, throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Archie and
13 Nancy opened their homes to Black students at Iowa
14 State College, allowing them to live on the upper floor
15 of the Martin House; and

16 WHEREAS, during this period, around 20 students
17 lived and dined with the Martin family at various
18 times, and the Martins also hosted local gatherings
19 and distinguished guests at the Martin House, including
20 George Washington Carver and Jack Trice, the first
21 Black athlete at Iowa State College; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2004, the Board of Regents honored the
23 legacy of the Martin family by approving the naming of
24 Martin Hall, a student housing building on the campus
25 of Iowa State University; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Ames branch of the NAACP
27 established the Nancy and Archie Martin Woman of
28 the Year Award and the Martin Foundation established
29 a scholarship to provide support for students of
30 color who demonstrate financial need and exemplify the

1 Martin legacy of kindness and community service; NOW
2 THEREFORE,
3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
4 That the House of Representatives honors the legacy of
5 Archie and Nancy Martin and the contributions they made
6 to the education and advancement of Black students at
7 Iowa State University.

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