

1 HJR54
2 126275-2
3 By Representatives Warren, Boyd, Moore (M), Coleman,
4 McClurkin, Givan, Weaver, Todd, Hall, Nordgren, Collins and
5 Beech
6 RFD: Rules
7 First Read: 08-MAR-11

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,
HONORING MILDRED HEMMONS CARTER.

WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure to honor and commend an Alabama heroine, the distinguished pioneering woman aviator, Mildred Hemmons Carter, who became the state's first female African-American licensed pilot; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Hemmons Carter earned a pilot's license in 1941 from Tuskegee's acclaimed Civilian Pilot Training Program and was recognized with a special 70th Anniversary Commemoration in February 2011, hosted by the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center and Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, born in Benson, Alabama, on September 14, 1921, she moved at an early age to Tuskegee and later to North Carolina and Holly Springs, Mississippi, where she graduated from high school in 1937 at the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, when her family returned to Tuskegee, she enrolled at Tuskegee Institute and graduated in 1941 at age 19 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business; her parents were firm believers in the value of education, and all five of their children finished college; and

WHEREAS, when the Civilian Pilot Training Program was initiated at Tuskegee, she applied but was rejected

1 because she did not meet the minimum age requirement of 18
2 years; the following year, she was accepted and, when she
3 received her pilot's license on February 1, 1941, she became
4 the first African-American woman in Alabama and possibly the
5 entire south to achieve this distinction; she then applied for
6 the Secondary (Advanced) Program but was denied on the basis
7 that female private pilots were not being accepted; and

8 WHEREAS, later, the United States Army Air Corps
9 announced a recruiting program for female pilots to serve in
10 the Women's Air Service Program; although she was more than
11 qualified for this organization, she was again rejected, this
12 time because of her race; and

13 WHEREAS, through the years, she continued her
14 interest in aviation and participated vicariously through the
15 career of her husband, Herbert E. Carter, an esteemed Tuskegee
16 Airman; the Carters currently reside in Tuskegee and have
17 three children, five grandchildren, and two cherished
18 great-grandchildren; and

19 WHEREAS, endowed with a keen intellect and
20 exceptional abilities, Mildred Hemmons Carter is propelled by
21 a sense of responsibility to others, and her extraordinary
22 accomplishments are the source of justifiable pride to her
23 family, her community, and the entire State of Alabama; now
24 therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
2 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Mildred Hemmons Carter is a
3 true pioneering heroine, and this resolution is offered in
4 highest tribute to her on the 70th Anniversary of becoming
5 Alabama's first African-American female licensed pilot as a
6 graduate of the Civilian Pilot Training Program at Tuskegee
7 Institute.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
9 resolution of commendation be provided to her, as evidence of
10 the admiration and appreciation of the people of the State of
11 Alabama.

