

1 HR65
2 210491-1
3 By Representative Hatcher
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-FEB-21

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.

WHEREAS, it is with immense pride and pleasure that we recognize Black History Month in February and National Women's History Month in March each year; at the convergence of these two months, we take the time for providing historical information and noting the importance of the preservation of the African-American culture and of all women in our society; it is a fitting time to recognize and commend the Black women enslaved and used in medical experiments; these women, mostly unnamed, are known as the Mothers of Gynecology; three named African-American slaves are Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the selfless and monumental contributions and accomplishments of all African-Americans and of all women, as well as emphasizing the importance of historic preservation as a tool for understanding American history, is appropriate during this time; and

WHEREAS, invisible in the shadow of Dr. James Marion Sims, who practiced medicine in Montgomery, Alabama, and is known as the Father of Modern Gynecology, were the

1 African-American female slaves, who were forced, without
2 anesthesia, to be subjected to experimental surgeries; named
3 in the writings of Dr. Sims were Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey; we
4 recognize them for their role in the creation of modern
5 women's health and for the advancement in medicine that came
6 as a result of their courage and perserverance; these brave
7 women are symbols of all of the enslaved and vulnerable
8 populations that have been exploited under the guise of
9 medical advancement; highest commendations and honor are
10 hereby extended to these enslaved women; and

11 WHEREAS, Anarcha, Lucy, Betsey, and their sister
12 slaves certainly are the unsung heros, the Mothers of Modern
13 Gynecology; they had a part in furthering the health of women
14 of all races and a part in the success of Dr. Sims, who honed
15 and perfected his craft with the development of instruments
16 that are very close to what is still used today; his success
17 rests solely on the personal sacrifice of these courageous,
18 enslaved African-American women that were subjected to his
19 experiments; and

20 WHEREAS, these enslaved women have earned our
21 respect for their exceptional sacrifice and personal
22 contributions and are truly deserving of special recognition;
23 now therefore,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we extend sincere and
26 heartfelt gratitude to these women who suffered through
27 extreme measures and have championed the cause for

1 African-Americans and for women, and we are indeed proud to
2 recognize, in their honor, February 2020 as Black History
3 Month and March 2020 as National Women's History Month.