

House Resolution 1371

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Thomas of the 39th, Carter of the 92nd, Shannon of the 84th, McLeod of the 105th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Katherine Johnson; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of the United States' most
3 distinguished citizens with the passing of Katherine Johnson on February 24, 2020, at the age
4 of 101; and

5 WHEREAS, Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in West Virginia and graduated from high
6 school when she was 14; she graduated from West Virginia State College with degrees in
7 math and French; after her graduation, she took a job as a teacher but, in 1953, took a job at
8 the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, which would later become NASA; and

9 WHEREAS, during her time at NASA, she was a part of a group of other African American
10 women hired to do computing in the guidance and navigation department at Langley's
11 Research Center in Virginia, where they courageously had to battle both racism and sexism
12 in the workplace; and

13 WHEREAS, Katherine had the privilege of hand-computing the trajectory of the first
14 manned launch and continued to be a vital resource for astronauts, including John Glenn,
15 who asked her to double-check the computer's math and considered her calculations a key
16 component of his preflight checklist; and

17 WHEREAS, this formerly unsung heroine of NASA's early days was one of the women
18 profiled in the book and movie *Hidden Figures*; and

19 WHEREAS, for her work, she was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom from President
20 Barack Obama in 2015, our nation's highest civilian honor, and NASA named the
21 Computational Research Facility in her honor; and

22 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
23 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she made of her life,
24 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

25 WHEREAS, a courageous and talented woman, Katherine Johnson will long be remembered
26 for her contribution to this nation's space program and will be missed by all who had the
27 great fortune of knowing her.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Katherine Johnson and
30 express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 public and the press.