

House Resolution 283

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88th

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating Black Economic Empowerment & Black Excellence in honor of African
2 American History Month; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Jacqueline Mohair is the founder of three schools: the TIUA School of
4 Business, Trinity International Chaplaincy Institute, and the Trinity International University
5 of Ambassadors Corp. Florida, Trinity Girls Network Corp. all are advocates for Black
6 history; and

7 WHEREAS, in honor of Black History Month, the TIUA School of Business presents "The
8 Economic Empowerment Summit & The Black Excellence Awards Gala," honoring
9 individuals who have made significant contributions to society; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the
11 proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal, that
12 they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life,
13 Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"; and

14 WHEREAS, Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as
15 early as the 17th century; and

16 WHEREAS, African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices
17 of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2021, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the
19 society of the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States
21 have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United
22 States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African
23 Americans and others; and

24 WHEREAS, African Americans such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth,
25 Congressman John Lewis, Dr. Rita Samuels, Dr. Juanita Abernathy, Emmitt Till, Dr. Joseph
26 Lowery, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown,
27 Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis
28 Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar
29 Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena
30 Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King,
31 Martin Luther King Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley,
32 Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia
33 Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman,
34 Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson,
35 Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah
36 Cummings, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, Diahann Carroll,
37 Chadwick Boseman, John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Hank Aaron, Edith
38 Savage-Jennings, Septima Clark, Mary Mcleod Bethune, Cicely Tyson, John Hope Franklin,
39 and Chief Justice of South Carolina Ernest Finney, along with many others, worked against

40 racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational,
41 political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United
42 States; and

43 WHEREAS, the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the
44 history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States; and

45 WHEREAS, many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving
46 the recognition they deserved yet paving the way for future generations to succeed; and

47 WHEREAS, African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of
48 business, government, and the military; and

49 WHEREAS, the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation
50 of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month; and

51 WHEREAS, Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G.
52 Woodson, the "Father of Black History," to enhance knowledge of Black history through *The*
53 *Journal of Negro History*, published by the Association for the Study of African American
54 Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland; and

55 WHEREAS, Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in
56 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the
57 heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States; and

58 WHEREAS, as Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, "We have a wonderful history behind us...if
59 you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to
60 you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else'"; and

61 WHEREAS, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble
62 goals; and

63 WHEREAS, the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high
64 ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms
65 with the disappointment of that failure before committing to try again; and

66 WHEREAS, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama,
67 an African American man, as president of the United States; and

68 WHEREAS, on February 18, 2023, we will forever remember the first African American
69 president by honoring individuals with the 44th Presidential Legacy LifeTime Achievement
70 Award; and

71 WHEREAS, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the
72 groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which
73 opened to the public on September 24, 2016, at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
75 the members of this body acknowledge that all people of the United States are the recipients
76 of the wealth of history provided by Black culture.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body recognize the importance of
78 Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States
79 while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body acknowledge the significance
81 of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous
82 contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage the celebration of
84 Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States
85 to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body agree that, while the United
87 States began as a divided country, the United States must honor the contribution of all
88 pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States
89 and move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation "indivisible, with liberty and
90 justice for all."

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