



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Frieda and Winifred Parker for their bravery and commending their dedication to equality.

Campbell

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20221417

2022

HC 1013/DI 146



**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Frieda and
2 Winifred Parker for their bravery and commending their
3 dedication to equality.

4 *Whereas, Frieda and Winifred Parker changed the course*
5 *of history at Purdue University and set a precedent of justice*
6 *and equality in higher education by fighting for the*
7 *desegregation of campus housing well before the*
8 *groundbreaking ruling of the United States Supreme Court in*
9 *Brown v. Board of Education;*

10 *Whereas, Frieda and Winifred Parker started their college*
11 *education at Purdue University in 1946, and were barred from*
12 *on-campus housing as a matter of "tradition". This forced the*
13 *young women to leave campus early to get safely to their*
14 *boarding house in Lafayette. The daily commute prevented the*
15 *sisters from socializing and networking with their peers or*
16 *engaging in additional educational opportunities offered*
17 *outside of normal class hours;*

18 *Whereas, Their father, Fred Parker, supported his daughters*
19 *in this struggle by starting a letter writing campaign to*
20 *administrators at Purdue and state government officials,*
21 *including Governor Ralph Gates. He pointed out that there was*
22 *no rule against African-Americans living on campus and that*
23 *it was Purdue University's policy for all other freshmen to live*
24 *in the dormitories. He also pointed out that as a land-grant*
25 *school, his taxes supported Purdue University and, therefore,*
26 *his daughters should be treated as equals to their peers.*
27 *Governor Gates supported the Parker family in their fight;*



1 *Whereas, In January 1947, Purdue desegregated the*
2 *residence halls and the Parker sisters, along with several of*
3 *their African-American peers, took their rightful places among*
4 *their peers and classmates in the residence halls;*

5 *Whereas, University historian John Norberg wrote about the*
6 *sisters in his book "A Force for Change: The Class of 1950"*
7 *and they were featured in a 2009 documentary titled "Black*
8 *Purdue";*

9 *Whereas, In June 2021, the Purdue Board of Trustees*
10 *renamed the Griffin Residence Hall buildings as Frieda Parker*
11 *Hall and Winifred Parker Hall in the sisters' honor. These*
12 *residence halls are close to where the sisters lived on campus*
13 *and they are adjacent to the Black Cultural Center on campus;*
14 *and*

15 *Whereas, Frieda and Winifred Parker had a lasting impact on*
16 *Purdue University and their community by bringing to light*
17 *injustice and working to correct it: Therefore,*

18 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives*
19 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*
20 *the Senate concurring:*

21 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors the
22 courage of Frieda and Winifred Parker for improving their
23 community and the State of Indiana in the name of justice and
24 equality.

25 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
26 Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the
27 office of State Representative Christine Campbell.

