



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating  
Frederick Douglass.

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**Porter, Bartlett, Brown C,  
Candelaria Reardon, Harris, Pryor,  
Shackleford, Smith V, Summers,  
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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION commemorating  
2 Frederick Douglass.

3           *Whereas, Frederick Douglass, a former slave, abolitionist,*  
4 *ambassador to Haiti, and social reformer, is thought by many*  
5 *to have been the "greatest orator in American history";*

6           *Whereas, Frederick Douglass was one of the most famous*  
7 *intellectuals of his time, advising presidents and lecturing to*  
8 *thousands on a range of subjects;*

9           *Whereas, Frederick Douglass was a well-known human rights*  
10 *leader in the anti-slavery movement and the first*  
11 *African-American to hold a high United States governmental*  
12 *position;*

13           *Whereas, Frederick Douglass's writings included several*  
14 *autobiographies describing his experiences living in slavery*  
15 *and his life after the Civil War, including the "Narrative of the*  
16 *Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave";*

17           *Whereas, Frederick Douglass was born into slavery about*  
18 *1818 in Talbot County, Maryland;*

19           *Whereas, The exact year and date of his birth are unknown,*  
20 *although he chose to celebrate his birthday on February 14;*

21           *Whereas, Frederick Douglass began his life with his maternal*  
22 *grandmother, Betty Bailey, but at a young age was chosen to*  
23 *live in the home of the plantation owners;*



1       *Whereas, Defying a ban on teaching slaves to read and write,*  
2       *Sophia, the wife of slave owner Hugh Auld, taught Frederick*  
3       *Douglass the alphabet when he was around 12 years old;*

4       *Whereas, It was through his ability to read that Frederick*  
5       *Douglass developed his ideological opposition to slavery;*

6       *Whereas, Intent upon sharing his great knowledge, Frederick*  
7       *Douglass taught other slaves on the plantation to read the New*  
8       *Testament at a weekly church service;*

9       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass married Anna Murray, a free*  
10       *black woman who helped him in his final attempt to escape*  
11       *slavery, on September 15, 1838, and together they had five*  
12       *children;*

13       *Whereas, After settling in New Bedford, Massachusetts, as a*  
14       *free man, Frederick Douglass began telling the story of his life*  
15       *in slavery and became a regular abolitionist lecturer;*

16       *Whereas, Upon returning from living abroad for two years,*  
17       *Frederick Douglass founded several abolitionist newspapers:*  
18       *The North Star, Frederick Douglass Weekly, Frederick*  
19       *Douglass' Paper, Douglass' Monthly and New National Era;*  
20       *it was also during this period that he published his first*  
21       *autobiography;*

22       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass became an outspoken supporter*  
23       *of women's rights and was the only African-American to attend*  
24       *the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York;*

25       *Whereas, By the time the Civil War began, Frederick*  
26       *Douglass was one of the most famous black men in the country*  
27       *and used his status to influence the role of African-Americans*  
28       *in the war and their status in the country, conferring with*  
29       *President Abraham Lincoln regarding the treatment of black*  
30       *soldiers and President Andrew Johnson on the subject of black*  
31       *suffrage;*

32       *Whereas, After the war, Frederick Douglass was appointed*  
33       *to several political positions, serving as president of the*  
34       *Freedman's Savings Bank and as chargé d'affaires for the*  
35       *Dominican Republic;*



1       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass became the first African-*  
2 *American nominated for vice president of the United States as*  
3 *Victoria Woodhull's running mate on the Equal Rights Party*  
4 *ticket in 1872;*

5       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass was nominated without his*  
6 *knowledge or consent and never campaigned;*

7       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass died on February 20, 1895, and*  
8 *is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York;*

9       *Whereas, The memory of Frederick Douglass is honored by*  
10 *Indy Parks and Recreation with a park named for him,*  
11 *Douglass Park, located on the northeast side of Indianapolis at*  
12 *1616 East 25th Street;*

13       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass was further honored when, in*  
14 *1928, the northern portion of the park was turned into*  
15 *Douglass Park Golf Course, the only golf course in the nation*  
16 *named for an African-American;*

17       *Whereas, On Friday, February 16, 2018, the City of*  
18 *Indianapolis and Indy Parks and Recreation celebrated*  
19 *Frederick Douglass's 200th birthday at Douglass Park; and*

20       *Whereas, Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential*  
21 *African-Americans of the nineteenth century: Therefore,*

22                       *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives*  
23                       *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*  
24                       *the Senate concurring:*

25       SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly wishes to  
26 commemorate the many accomplishments of Frederick  
27 Douglass.

28       SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
29 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Indy Parks  
30 and Recreation.

