

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Blackmon, Jackson
(11th), Simmons (12th), Witherspoon, Turner-
Ford, Frazier, Norwood, Horhn, Jolly,
Browning

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 656

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 2019 AS "WOMEN'S
2 HISTORY MONTH IN MISSISSIPPI" WITH ITS THEME "VISIONARY WOMEN:
3 CHAMPIONS OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE," CELEBRATING THE 39TH
4 ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY MOVEMENT.

5 WHEREAS, during Women's History Month, we celebrate the
6 countless women whose courage and resolve have contributed to the
7 character and success of our nation and the entire world. The
8 equal opportunity of women in every facet of daily life is an
9 essential feature of a free and prosperous society. This month,
10 we honor women who have fought for equality and against the status
11 quo, and who have broken the bonds of discrimination, partiality
12 and injustice for the benefit of all. These women created a
13 legacy that continues to inspire generations of women to live with
14 confidence, to have a positive impact on their communities, and to
15 improve our nation every day; and

16 WHEREAS, the 2019 theme for Women's History Month is
17 "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Nonviolence." As the
18 National Women's History Alliance website explained, "This year we
19 honor women who have led efforts to end war, violence and



20 injustice and pioneered the use of nonviolence to change society";
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in keeping with their tradition, the National
23 Women's History Alliance has selected 15 living and deceased
24 honorees this year, who will be acknowledged at a ceremony in
25 Washington, D.C., on March 30, 2019. The women include Graciela
26 Sanchez, co-founder of the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center;
27 Deborah Tucker, President of the Board of Directors of the
28 National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence; Dr. E. Faye
29 Williams, Human Rights Activist and President/CEO of the National
30 Congress of Black Women; Sarah Brady, the late Gun Control
31 Activist and Champion of the Brady Bill; and Peace Pilgrim, who
32 logged thousands of miles in her cross-country marches for peace
33 before her death in 1981; Catherine Brewer, who in 1840 became the
34 first woman to earn a bachelor's degree, and Dr. Elizabeth
35 Blackwell, who graduated from medical school to become America's
36 first recognized female physician, are in the pantheon of great
37 American women. All pursued their passion to learn and to achieve
38 advanced degrees in an unprecedented way. Their achievement
39 marked the beginning of our society's move toward equality among
40 men and women in education. They would be proud to know that,
41 today, female students constitute the majority of undergraduates
42 in our colleges and universities; and

43 WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a
44 critical economic, cultural and social role in every sphere of the



45 life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the
46 labor force working inside and outside of the home. American
47 women have played a unique role throughout the history of the
48 nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of
49 the nation. American women were particularly important in the
50 establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural
51 institutions in our nation; and

52 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class and ethnic
53 background have made historic contributions to the growth and
54 strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways.
55 Women's history becomes a story of inspiration and hope, a story
56 of courage and tenacity, and a story of possibility and purpose.
57 Women's history is our nation's story. It is the story of how
58 women built communities and inspired and nurtured dreams and how
59 they will continue to do so; and

60 WHEREAS, to emphasize the role of women in our state, the
61 Legislature in 2001 established the Mississippi Commission on the
62 Status of Women to advise and consult with the Legislature and the
63 executive branch on policies affecting the political status and
64 other concerns of women in Mississippi; and it is with great pride
65 that we recognize women who serve as role models in pioneering
66 Mississippi's future; and

67 WHEREAS, this month, we express our gratitude for all
68 American women who continue to strengthen our families,



69 communities and workforce. Our future is brighter because of
70 their contributions:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
72 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
73 we do hereby designate March 2019 as "Women's History Month in
74 Mississippi" with its theme "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace
75 and Nonviolence," celebrating the 39th Anniversary of the Women's
76 History Movement.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
78 the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women to observe
79 appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities, and made
80 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

