

By: Representative Anthony

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 96

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING TRACK AND FIELD
2 ALL-AMERICAN JANET DAVIS ON HER OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC CAREER AT
3 GENTRY HIGH SCHOOL AND FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY.

4 WHEREAS, Janet Davis, a 1983 graduate of Gentry High School
5 in Indianola, Mississippi, was a phenomenal track and field star
6 whose exceptional record-setting performances and achievements as
7 a student in Mississippi and later at Florida State University
8 earned her recognition and acclaim on the international stage as
9 an athletic champion; and

10 WHEREAS, with 16 brothers and sisters to race with, a
11 competitive young Janet Davis, seemingly born to run, acquired
12 explosive speed and endurance at an early age, winning her first
13 track and field medal as an eight-year-old student at Carver
14 Elementary School and her first Gold Medal in Tokyo, Japan, at the
15 age of 12 in 1977; and

16 WHEREAS, before entering high school, Janet Davis, a member
17 of the Indianola Track Club created by her physical education
18 teacher, Mr. Lott, had made a name for herself at cross country



19 and indoor and outdoor track events throughout the country,
20 winning both the eight and nine-year-old Amateur Athletic Union
21 (AAU) Cross Country Championships in the mile race; and

22 WHEREAS, while a member of the Indianola Track Club and
23 Gentry High School State Championship Team, Janet Davis continued
24 to excel, being named: the 100-Meter National Champion in the
25 15-16 age group in Los Angeles, California; the Triple Crown
26 Winner of the Mississippi State Championship, winning the 100, 200
27 and 440-yard dash; and the youngest member of the 1981 National
28 Sports Festival South Team in Syracuse, New York, finishing third
29 in the 100-meter race behind two former Olympians, Evelyn Ashford
30 and Jeannette Boldin, and third in the 200-meter race behind the
31 famed Florence Joyner (FloJo) and Jeanette Boldin; and

32 WHEREAS, Janet Davis's athletic prowess only increased as she
33 matured, which is reflected by a few of the many awards she
34 received as a high school runner, such as: Athlete of the Year,
35 the most coveted award at Gentry High School, earned as a junior;
36 the 1982 National High School Track All-American Award; and the
37 1983 Mississippi *Clarion Ledger* Athlete of the Year Award; and

38 WHEREAS, in addition, Janet Davis was a valuable member of
39 several prestigious teams during high school, including: Gentry
40 High School State Track Championship Team; Gentry High School
41 State Championship Team and the State Championship Team, anchoring
42 the 4x100, 4x200, and 4x400 meter relays on both teams; Adidas
43 All-American Team; American Textile All-American Team; TFA/USA



44 All-American Team; TAC/USA Junior and Senior All-American Team;
45 USA Junior National Team, anchoring the last leg in the 4x100
46 meter relay in Caracas, Venezuela; and USA Senior Team, the
47 youngest member as an eleventh grader, in Tokyo, Japan; and

48 WHEREAS, ranked No. 1 in the nation in the 100 and 200-meter
49 races and No. 1 in the indoor 60-yard dash by *Track and Field News*
50 magazine, Janet Davis was the Overall State Record Holder in the
51 100 and 220-yard dash and the National High School Record Holder
52 in the indoor 220-yard dash in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and never
53 losing a race at the State Championship from 1981 through 1983,
54 she was the Triple Crown Winner in State Championship, winning the
55 100, 200 and 400-meter races, the Mississippi State Champion in
56 the 100, 200 and 400-meter races, and the USA National Champion in
57 the 100-meter dash in Kansas; and

58 WHEREAS, in 1984, Janet Davis, the Second Place Prep Athlete
59 of the Year, was the No. 1 recruited athlete in the entire country
60 and received a full Track and Field Scholarship to attend Florida
61 State University; and

62 WHEREAS, as a member of the 1984 Florida State NCAA National
63 Track and Field Championship Team, running the first leg of the
64 collegiate record-setting 4x400 relay team, placing sixth in the
65 200 meters, and sixth in the 400 meters, Janet Davis further
66 cemented her stature among the greatest of athletes, being named a
67 Three-time All-American as a Freshman at FSU and a six-time FSU
68 All-American; and



69 WHEREAS, Janet Davis, an inductee into Florida State's Top 25
70 Club in the 100, 200 and 400 meter races with times of 11.5, 23.13
71 and 52.77 in each respective event, ran in the 1984 Olympic Trials
72 in Los Angeles, California, and held the record of 7th fastest in
73 the world for the 60 meters indoor time; and

74 WHEREAS, in recognition of her lifelong success and the honor
75 it brought to her alma mater, Gentry High School retired Janet
76 Davis's track jersey and inducted her into the Gentry High School
77 Hall of Fame in the 1980s; and

78 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate, even after all these years,
79 to recognize Janet Davis, a true champion in track and field who,
80 having achieved the success and greatness reserved for only the
81 very top percentage of athletes throughout the world, is still
82 fondly remembered to this day for the immense pride and honor she
83 brought to her hometown and the entire State of Mississippi:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
85 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
86 commend and congratulate track and field All-American Janet Davis
87 on her outstanding athletic career at Gentry High School and
88 Florida State University and extend our heartfelt wishes for every
89 success in all her current and future endeavors.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
91 furnished to Janet Davis, Gentry High School and to the members of
92 the Capitol Press Corps.

