

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 49

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays in honor of his distinguished career as an educator, civil and human rights leader, and public theologian.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. MCKINNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays in honor of his distinguished career as an educator, civil and human rights leader, and public theologian.

Whereas Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, throughout his distinguished career of more than half a century as an educator, civil and human rights leader, and public theologian, inspired people of all races throughout the world by his persistent commitment to excellence;

Whereas Benjamin Mays persevered, despite the frustrations inherent in segregation, to begin an illustrious career in education;

Whereas as Dean of the School of Religion of Howard University and later for a period of 27 years as President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, Benjamin Mays overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to offer high quality education to all people of the United States, especially African-Americans;

Whereas at the commencement of World War II, when most colleges suffered from a lack of available students and the demise of Morehouse College appeared imminent, Benjamin Mays prevented the college from permanently closing its doors by vigorously recruiting potential students and thereby aiding the development of future generations of African-American leaders;

Whereas Benjamin Mays was instrumental in the elimination of segregated public facilities in Atlanta, Georgia, and promoted the cause of nonviolence through peaceful student protests during a time in this Nation that was often marred by racial violence;

Whereas Benjamin Mays received numerous accolades throughout his career, including the naming of a street and of 7 schools and academic buildings in his honor; and

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the Nation, was established in 1945 to appropriately recognize persons who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that the President should award the Presi-

1 dential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Dr. Benjamin
2 Elijah Mays in honor of his distinguished career as an ed-
3 ucator, civil and human rights leader, and public theolo-
4 gian and his many contributions to the improvement of
5 United States society and the world.

