

HR 9015

2013

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution remembering the extraordinary life of
3 Harriet Ross Tubman and honoring her bravery and
4 sacrifice on the 100th anniversary of her passing.
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6 WHEREAS, born into slavery in 1820 in Dorchester County,
7 Maryland, to slaves Harriet Green and Benjamin Ross, then-known
8 Araminta Harriet Ross was the fifth of nine children to endure
9 the hardships and violence inherent in the relationship between
10 master and slave until finally forging her escape from
11 enslavement and gaining her freedom in 1849, and

12 WHEREAS, in 1851, married and free in the State of
13 Pennsylvania, Harriet Ross Tubman began the 10-year mission that
14 would make her the most famous conductor on the Underground
15 Railroad and one of the greatest abolitionists and Civil Rights
16 activists in American history, and

17 WHEREAS, with passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, the
18 dynamics of escaping slavery had changed, leading to widespread
19 abduction of former slaves and free Blacks; however, Tubman
20 persevered in her efforts, rerouting the Underground Railroad to
21 Canada and embarking on the tireless relocation of more than 300
22 slaves, including her parents, and

23 WHEREAS, with bounties totaling as much as \$40,000, Tubman,
24 a fugitive slave herself, made approximately 19 harrowing trips
25 involving great personal hardship and grave danger, but she was
26 never captured and never failed to deliver her "passengers" to
27 safety, earning her the title of the "Moses of Her People," and

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28 WHEREAS, after the outbreak of the Civil War, Harriet Ross
29 Tubman served with the Union Army as a soldier, spy, nurse,
30 scout, and cook, including honorable service in Fernandina
31 Beach, where she was recognized for her ability to cure
32 illnesses using native herbs, and was the first Black woman to
33 lead an armed expedition into war, guiding the Combahee River
34 Raid, which was responsible for the liberation of more than 700
35 South Carolina slaves, and

36 WHEREAS, after the Civil War ended, Harriet Tubman returned
37 to her home in Auburn, New York, where she spent her remaining
38 years advocating for women's rights and serving the elderly with
39 a generous land donation that was later named in her honor as
40 the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, where she later worked and
41 then was cared for in the period before her own death, and

42 WHEREAS, on March 10, 1913, Harriet Ross Tubman died of
43 pneumonia at her home in Auburn, New York, and was buried at
44 Fort Hill Cemetery with military honors, and

45 WHEREAS, Harriet Ross Tubman was an eloquent and effective
46 speaker on behalf of the movement to abolish slavery and fought
47 with unprecedented tenacity for human dignity, human rights,
48 equal opportunity, and justice, and her determination and
49 bravery continue to inspire generations of Americans, NOW,
50 THEREFORE,

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52 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
53 Florida:

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55 That on the 100th anniversary of her passing, the House of
56 Representatives remembers the extraordinary life of Harriet Ross
57 Tubman and honors her contributions and sacrifice in this state
58 and throughout the nation.