

A RESOLUTION honoring Diane Sawyer during Women's History Month.

WHEREAS, Diane Sawyer was born in Glasgow, Kentucky, on December 22, 1945. She moved with her family to Louisville and attended Seneca High School before receiving her bachelor's degree in English from Wellesley College; and

WHEREAS, Diane Sawyer began her career in broadcasting by working as a weather forecaster for WLKY-TV. In 1970, she moved to Washington, D.C., and became an administrative assistant to White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, Diane Sawyer joined CBS News as a general assignment reporter. On September 28, 1981, she debuted as the co-anchor of the CBS morning news, and on those first days in front of the camera she would transform broadcast news and go on to become one of the most recognizable faces in the world; and

WHEREAS, Diane Sawyer went on to co-host *Good Morning America*, *20/20*, *60 Minutes*, and *Primetime*, and in 2009 she replaced Charles Gibson as the host of *ABC World News*. For her wrenching expose on the Appalachian region of Kentucky, "A Hidden America: Children of the Mountains," she received a Peabody Award in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Diane Sawyer stepped down as the anchor of *ABC World News* in August 2014, and throughout her four decades reporting the news she became a trusted source of knowledge and comfort for millions of Americans, fairly and accurately covering the sweep of American history with her trademark intelligence, candor, and empathy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this honorable body acknowledge the many accomplishments of Diane Sawyer, one of this Commonwealth's most treasured daughters. In rightful celebration and praise of all she has done for broadcast journalism and to promote women's equality in the field of journalism, this chamber stands united on this day to rightfully grant her best wishes as she continues an already extraordinary life; and

WHEREAS, in so doing this body also recognizes Women's History Month and acknowledges that women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions in every area to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, as recently as 1970, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in our nation's schools or in the general public consciousness. To raise awareness, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County, California Commission on the Status of Women initiated a Women's History Week celebration in 1978. After its activities in March of that year were met with enthusiastic response, the education process continued. A member of the group was invited to Sarah Lawrence College in 1979 to participate in Women's History Institutes attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. Attendees began similar celebrations within their own organizations and school districts and secured a Congressional Resolution declaring a National Women's History Week. In 1981, Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah and Representative Barbara Mikulski of Maryland co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution recognition National Women's History Week; and

WHEREAS, as word spread across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieve equity goals within classrooms. Essay contests, special programs, and other community observances focused on the significance of women in history. Within just a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since that time, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, and the President has issued for our nation a special

Women's History Month Proclamation each year; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history of the nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force and improving the productivity of the workplace. American women were the driving force behind the establishment of early charitable philanthropic and cultural institutions, and yet it was their work ethic that helped tilt the momentum of World War II in favor of our nation; and

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement. Women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of service and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which have served to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite the countless contributions women have made in the United States and efforts to recognize their importance in history, the role of American women has been overlooked. This honorable body lauds the efforts to raise awareness of women in history, not only during this month, but throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, this body hereby honors those women who serve this Commonwealth, from the female members of this General Assembly to the teachers and doctors and lawyers and thinkers who strive to bring attention to the need for equality in pay and in status between men and women; and

WHEREAS, this body also duly honors Diane Sawyer, who has left such an indelible imprint not only on women's history but on American history as well, and urges

all Kentuckians to observe Women's History Month and to consider their own place in the ongoing struggle for equality;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor Diane Sawyer.

➔Section 2. The members of the House of Representatives acknowledge Women's History Month and pause to reflect on the many accomplishments Diane Sawyer has made as a notable woman in Kentucky's history.

➔Section 3. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in honor and eternal gratitude of Diane Sawyer.

➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Mary Lou Marzian for delivery.