

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

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By: **Delegates Lee, Alston, Arora, Beidle, Bobo, Braveboy, Burns, Cane, Carr, Conaway, Cullison, Eckardt, Frick, Frush, Gaines, Glenn, Gutierrez, Harrison, Healey, Howard, Ivey, Jones, A. Kelly, Love, McComas, McDonough, A. Miller, Nathan–Pulliam, Pena–Melnyk, B. Robinson, Stukes, Tarrant, V. Turner, Valderrama, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **National Harriet Tubman Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the President of the United States declare a
4 certain day as National Harriet Tubman Day.

5 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born a slave under the given name Araminta
6 Ross in Maryland circa 1820; and

7 WHEREAS, Beaten severely as a child, she also suffered a traumatic head
8 injury at the hands of a slave owner early in her life that caused a lifetime of
9 headaches, seizures, and vision difficulties; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1849, she fled North to freedom and then immediately returned
11 to Maryland, risking her life to free her family; and

12 WHEREAS, She joined the Underground Railroad, which was a secret network
13 for free African Americans and white sympathizers who helped runaways escape the
14 South; and

15 WHEREAS, She became a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, risking
16 her life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom; and

17 WHEREAS, Known as “the Moses of her people”, she was so successful that
18 furious slaveholders put a huge price on her head; and

19 WHEREAS, When the Civil War began, she became a Union spy, organizing an
20 espionage network of slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confederate lines; and



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1 WHEREAS, On several occasions, she led military raiding parties and also
2 tended to the Union wounded as an army nurse; and

3 WHEREAS, After the Civil War, she devoted herself to women's suffrage, the
4 care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen's schools in the
5 South; and

6 WHEREAS, The 100th anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
9 General Assembly of Maryland urges the President of the United States to declare
10 March 10, 2013, as National Harriet Tubman Day; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
12 Legislative Services to President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600
13 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., 20500.