

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 50

Recognizing the historical importance of Associate Justice Clarence Thomas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Georgia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historical importance of Associate Justice
Clarence Thomas.

Whereas, in 1948, Clarence Thomas was born outside of Savannah, Georgia, in the small community of Pin Point, Georgia;

Whereas Clarence Thomas was born into poverty and under segregation;

Whereas, notwithstanding his humble beginnings and the many impediments he faced, Clarence Thomas demonstrated incredible intellect, discipline, and strength in attending and graduating from St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School, St. John Vianney Minor Seminar, the College of the Holy Cross, and Yale Law School;

Whereas Clarence Thomas had a distinguished legal career with service in State government and all branches of the Federal Government, including the Senate, the Department of Education, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit;

Whereas, on July 1, 1991, President George Herbert Walker Bush nominated Clarence Thomas to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (in this preamble referred to as the “Supreme Court”);

Whereas Justice Thomas is the second African American to serve on the Supreme Court;

Whereas, during his quarter century on the Supreme Court, Justice Thomas has made a unique and indelible contribution to the jurisprudence of the United States;

Whereas Justice Thomas has propounded a jurisprudence that seeks to faithfully apply the original meaning of the text of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas Justice Thomas has brought renewed focus to constitutional doctrines that the Framers intended to undergird our republican form of government, including federalism and the separation of powers;

Whereas, in fostering this philosophy of law, Justice Thomas reinvigorated not only the jurisprudence of the United States, but also the democracy of the United States;

Whereas Justice Thomas has been a remarkably prolific Associate Justice, writing influential opinions on topics including constitutional law, administrative law, and civil rights;

Whereas, on August 10, 1846, in the name of founding an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowl-

edge, Congress established the Smithsonian Institution as a trust to be administered by a Board of Regents and a Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution;

Whereas diversity, including intellectual diversity, is a core value of the Smithsonian Institution and the museums of the Smithsonian Institution should capitalize on the richness inherent in differences;

Whereas, upon opening, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (in this preamble referred to as the “Museum”) is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture;

Whereas the Museum omits the contribution made by Justice Thomas to the United States; and

Whereas the House of Representatives is hopeful the Museum will reflect that important contribution: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 representatives that—

3 (1) Associate Justice Clarence Thomas is a his-
4 torically significant African American who has—

5 (A) overcome great challenges;

6 (B) served his country honorably for more
7 than 35 years; and

8 (C) made an important contribution to the
9 United States, in particular the jurisprudence
10 of the United States; and

1 (2) the life and work of Justice Thomas are an
2 important part of the story of African Americans in
3 the United States and should have a prominent
4 place in the National Museum of African American
5 History and Culture.

