

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 386

Honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WYNN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. LEE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FATAH, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CARSON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. SOLIS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse.

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney was born May 7, 1845, in Dorchester, Massachusetts, to Charles Mahoney and Mary Jane Seward Mahoney;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney, at the age of 33, was accepted as a student nurse at the hospital-based program of nurs-

ing at the New England Hospital for Women and Children;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney was one of four students, of a class of 40, who completed nursing at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in 1879;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney devoted her time and efforts unselfishly to the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and was installed as the Official Chaplin;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney's motto was "Work more and better the coming year than the previous year.";

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney delivered the first annual keynote speech of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses and established the Mary Eliza award, which today continues as the Mary Eliza Mahoney Award bestowed biennially by the American Nurses Association;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney supported the suffrage movement and was the first African-American professionally trained nurse to receive retirement benefits from a fund left by a Boston physician to care for 60 nurses, who received twenty-five dollars every three months as long as they lived;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney's gravesite is in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, Massachusetts, and the headstone on her grave states, "The First Professional Negro Nurse in the U.S.A.";

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney was inducted into the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 1976;

Whereas Mary Eliza Mahoney advanced the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice and confronting issues affecting professional nurses, such as the shortage of nurses;

Whereas today the shortage of nurses is a crisis, estimated to be 110,000 nurses, and is expected to increase to 2,800,000 by 2020 if the shortage is not addressed; and

Whereas nursing is a critical investment to the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective patient care, and the Nation should invest in and value nursing care: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3            (1) honors Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first Afri-  
4            can-American nurse for an outstanding nursing ca-  
5            reer, dedication to the United States nursing profes-  
6            sion, and exemplary contributions to local and na-  
7            tional professional nursing organizations;

8            (2) recognizes Mary Eliza Mahoney as the first  
9            professionally trained African-American nurse, and  
10          honors other African-American nurses who practice  
11          nursing with distinction;

12          (3) honors and supports the goals and activities  
13          of National Nurses Week;

14          (4) promotes further understanding and public  
15          awareness of the history of American nurses, who  
16          practiced nursing with compassion and devotion and  
17          transmitted new scientific knowledge using science-  
18          based nursing practice; and

19          (5) advocates for women of color to enter nurs-  
20          ing and supports the strategies of the American

- 1 Nurses Association to counteract the shortage of
- 2 nurses.

