

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 458

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending Mary Baker Eddy's
achievements and the Mary Baker Eddy Library
for the Betterment of Humanity.

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Whereas the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity will officially open on September 29, 2002, in Boston, Massachusetts, thereby making available to the public the Mary Baker Eddy Collections, one of the largest collections of primary source material by and about an American woman;

Whereas the namesake of the Library, Mary Baker Eddy, achieved international prominence during her lifetime (1821–1910) as the founder of Christian Science and was the first woman in the United States to found and lead a religion that became an international movement with members in 139 countries;

Whereas historians compare Mary Baker Eddy to nineteenth-century women reformers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, who took leadership roles at a time when women infrequently did so;

Whereas Mary Baker Eddy founded and served as the pastor of her own church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, and established a publishing organization that produces numerous publications, including “The Christian Science Monitor”, an international daily newspaper that has won seven Pulitzer Prizes;

Whereas in recognition of the numerous achievements of Mary Baker Eddy, the Women’s National Hall of Fame inducted her into its membership in 1995 for having made “an indelible mark on society, religion, and journalism”;

Whereas the Mary Baker Eddy Library, a facility of 81,000 square feet, provides a place for people to come together to explore ideas and offers on-site and online educational experiences, programs, and exhibits;

Whereas the Mary Baker Eddy Collections consist of more than 100,000 documents, artifacts, photographs, and other media that chronicle the development of Mary Baker Eddy’s ideas and offer an unequalled resource to scholars in women’s history and mind-body medicine;

Whereas the Library’s initiative to make the previously unpublished materials in the Mary Baker Eddy Collections available to the public is exemplary of, and in full accord with, the intent of the provisions of title 17, United States Code, relating to the publication of previously unpublished materials; and

Whereas the Mary Baker Eddy Library will establish an Institute for the Rediscovery and Preservation of the History of Women in Seneca Falls, New York, the birthplace of the first Women’s Rights Convention, in order to showcase new research on the forgotten histories of women and offer educational programs for students: Now, therefore, be it

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

4 (1) Mary Baker Eddy for her outstanding
 5 achievements and contributions, particularly her con-
 6 tributions to the advancement of women’s rights as
 7 a public figure and role model in the early stages of
 8 the women’s rights movement; and

1 (2) the Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Bet-
2 terment of Humanity, which will open to the public
3 on September 29, 2002.

Passed the House of Representatives September 24,
2002.

Attest:

Clerk.