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S. RES. 229

Commemorating Black History Month and contributions of African-American United States Senators.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 29 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 28), 1996

Mr. DOLE (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. D'AMATO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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RESOLUTION

Commemorating Black History Month and contributions of African-American United States Senators.

Whereas Black History Month in 1996 is a fitting occasion to direct public attention to the many significant contributions which have been made by African-American citizens in government service to the people of the United States of America;

Whereas, 125 years ago on February 25, 1870, Republican Hiram Rhodes Revels of Natchez, Mississippi, was seated as the first Black citizen to serve in the United States Senate;

Whereas the service of Senator Revels, an ordained minister of the Christian Gospel, was distinguished by conscientious support for desegregated public education, reconcili-

ation, equal political opportunity and veterans' benefits and by opposition to discrimination in government employment and political corruption;

Whereas Blanche Kelso Bruce of Bolivar County, Mississippi, whose term commenced on March 5, 1875, became the first Black citizen to serve a full term in the United States Senate and distinguished himself by supporting equality in Western State land grants, desegregation in the United States Army, electoral fairness, equitable treatment of Native Americans and by opposing fraud and incompetence in governmental affairs;

Whereas Edward William Brooke of Newton, Massachusetts, on January 3, 1967, became the first Black citizen to be elected directly by the people to serve in the United States Senate (and then was re-elected), distinguished himself by supporting American history awareness, racial reconciliation initiatives, strengthened foreign relations, stronger higher education, improved veterans' benefits, affordable housing and the performing arts;

Whereas Carol Moseley-Braun of Chicago, Illinois, on January 3, 1993, became the first Black woman and the first Black member of the Democrat Party to be seated in the United States Senate and is currently distinguishing herself for her resolute commitment to equal opportunity in education, advocacy of women's and children's rights, support for business entrepreneurship, expanded economic opportunity, equity for family farmers and fiscal responsibility, and for her forceful opposition to all forms of crime; and

Whereas, on February 29, 1996, the African-American Alliance, the James E. Chaney Foundation, and Local 372 of District Council 37 of the American Federation of

State, County and Municipal Employees, are sponsoring ceremonies in the United States Capitol Building to pay tribute to the pioneering legacy of these intrepid and highly esteemed role models: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate does hereby join in honoring these inspiring legislators and expresses profound gratitude for their innumerable substantive contributions to the pursuit of justice, fairness, equality and opportunity for all United States citizens.

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