

Public Law 100-548
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

Oct. 28, 1988
[H.J. Res. 629]

Designating October 22, 1988, as "National Chester F. Carlson Recognition Day".

Whereas Chester F. Carlson invented xerography, a dry process for duplicating that involves no chemical reactions, on October 22, 1938;

Whereas the invention of xerography represented a dramatic breakthrough in the duplicating industry and the fields of photography, engineering, and physics;

Whereas the development of the new technology of xerography was publicly announced in Rochester, New York, on the 10th anniversary of the invention of xerography by Chester F. Carlson, and the 1st office copier utilizing the process of xerography was offered for sale 2 years later;

Whereas the research and development of xerography has resulted in a multimillion dollar industry that produces billions of copies each year in offices around the world;

Whereas xerography has become an indispensable tool for the dissemination of information and communication, and has increased efficiency and productivity in millions of offices;

Whereas Chester F. Carlson was a 2d generation American who overcame poverty to obtain a degree in physics from the California Institute of Technology and a law degree while conducting experiments with electrophotography in the hope of solving the problem of creating an inexpensive method of making high quality duplicates of documents;

Whereas Chester F. Carlson is renowned not only for his genius as an inventor but also for his philanthropy, donating most of his fortune from royalties for the achievement of world peace and the support of the United Nations, the civil rights movement, and many colleges and universities; and

Whereas October 22, 1988, is the 50th anniversary of the invention of xerography by Chester F. Carlson: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That October 22, 1988, is designated as "National Chester F. Carlson Recognition Day", and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to

issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved October 28, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 629:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):
Sept. 16, considered and passed House.
Oct. 19, considered and passed Senate.