

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 238

The Speaker, on behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Barbara-Rose
2 Collins, former member of the Michigan House of Representatives and
3 the United States House of Representatives.

4 Whereas, It is with great sorrow that the members of the House
5 of Representatives learned about the passing of Barbara-Rose
6 Collins. A lifelong resident of Detroit, she will be remembered as
7 a dedicated public servant devoted to the residents of the 21st
8 District; and

9 Whereas, A graduate of Detroit's Cass Technical High School,
10 Barbara-Rose Collins attended Wayne State University, where she
11 majored in political science and anthropology. Representative
12 Collins became inspired by public service after attending a

1 historic speech on Black freedom and grassroots activism in
2 Detroit; and

3 Whereas, Representative Collins started her public career in
4 1971 when she was elected to the Detroit Public School Board. She
5 then successfully ran for the Michigan House of Representatives in
6 1974 and served for seven years. Legislation she sponsored over her
7 tenure, including Public Acts to require last date of sale on
8 perishable foods, establish guidelines for birth control education
9 in schools, and prohibit discrimination against women in insurance
10 coverage by employers, demonstrated her commitment to social
11 justice and equality. In addition, she served on the Constitutional
12 Revision and Women's Rights, House Policy, Public Health, and Urban
13 Affairs committees; and

14 Whereas, As the first Black Congresswoman from Michigan,
15 Barbara-Rose Collins continued her fight for safety and equality
16 for vulnerable populations. She represented the Detroit area in
17 Congress for three terms from 1991 to 1996. During that time, she
18 raised awareness of food deficiencies in urban areas and protested
19 for the rights of Haitian refugees. Her legislative efforts focused
20 on what she termed "city issues" of crime, homelessness, poverty,
21 and domestic and other types of violence; and

22 Whereas, In addition to her service in the Michigan House of
23 Representatives and Congress, Representative Collins also served on
24 the Detroit City Council from 1982 to 1990 and 2001 to 2009; and

25 Whereas, While working hard as an elected official, Barbara-
26 Rose Collins continued to advocate for her community in other
27 capacities, including as commissioner of the Humans Rights
28 Commission of Detroit and as chair of the Detroit City Council Task
29 Force on Teenage Violence; and

1 Whereas, Described as a trailblazer and pioneer, Barbara-Rose
2 Collins was devoted to her work. She deftly balanced her passion
3 for her constituents with effective problem-solving skills. She
4 could spar with her colleagues on a particular topic and then
5 jovially invite them to dinner afterwards. Her ability to balance
6 the business aspects of work with social relationships made her an
7 effective champion for the downtrodden, and she will remain a role
8 model for young women interested in pursuing public office; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this
11 expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Barbara-
12 Rose Collins, a member of the House of Representatives from 1975 to
13 1981 and the United States House of Representatives from 1991 to
14 1996; and be it further

15 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
16 Collins family as evidence of our lasting esteem for her memory.