

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 968

Recognizing the 90th anniversary of the National Council of Negro Women and honoring its historic legacy and continued service to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Ms. WATERS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 90th anniversary of the National Council of Negro Women and honoring its historic legacy and continued service to the Nation.

Whereas the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) was founded in 1935 by educator, stateswoman, and civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune, who envisioned a unified organization of Black women to make a better world, and worked tirelessly to advance opportunities for African American women, families, and communities;

Whereas, for 90 years, NCNW has served as a leading national organization dedicated to advocating for racial justice, gender equality, economic opportunity, civil rights, and social progress for Black women, their families, and their communities;

Whereas under the transformative and unparalleled leadership of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who served as president for 42 years, NCNW strengthened its national infrastructure, expanded its advocacy footprint, elevated the voices of African American women in the civil and human rights movements, and launched signature initiatives that reshaped the national conversation on race, gender, family, and equity;

Whereas Dr. Height's visionary leadership led to the creation of hallmark NCNW programs, including the Black Family Reunion, an annual celebration of Black culture, unity, and intergenerational strength that continues to uplift families, fortify communities, and reinforce traditions that advance collective progress;

Whereas NCNW has remained a vital voice for social and economic justice through its longstanding commitment to economic empowerment programs, community health and wellness initiatives, STEM education, and leadership development for girls, which reduce disparities, expand opportunity, and strengthen communities nationwide;

Whereas NCNW today represents more than 2 million women, is comprised of a vibrant network of community and collegiate sections and 330 affiliate organizations across the United States, and continues to be an essential pillar of civic leadership, volunteerism, and social advocacy;

Whereas NCNW's enduring influence is symbolized by its historic headquarters on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the only Black-owned building on Pennsylvania Avenue, a fixture in the civic and cultural landscape of the Nation's capital and a gathering place for

generations of leaders committed to advancing equality and justice;

Whereas, under the current stewardship of Rev. Shavon Arline-Bradley, President and Chief Executive Officer, NCNW continues to build on the legacies of Bethune and Height, expanding national partnerships, strengthening community-driven programs, and preparing a new generation of leaders who carry forward the organization’s core mission “to lead, empower, and advocate”; and

Whereas, in its 90th year, NCNW remains a testament to the power of organized womanhood and the enduring legacy of Black women’s leadership in shaping a more just and equitable future for all: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes and celebrates the 90th anniversary
3 of the founding of the National Council of
4 Negro Women;

5 (2) honors the vision and legacy of Mary
6 McLeod Bethune and Dr. Dorothy Irene Height,
7 whose leadership and commitment to justice laid the
8 foundation for the National Council of Negro Women’s
9 national impact;

10 (3) commends the ongoing leadership of Rev.
11 Shavon Arline-Bradley and the women of the National
12 Council of Negro Women who continue to advance
13 programs that strengthen families, expand
14 economic and educational opportunity, promote
15 health equity, and empower communities;

1 (4) acknowledges the national presence of the
2 National Council of Negro Women and its
3 multigenerational membership whose collective serv-
4 ice continues to uplift millions of Americans;

5 (5) recognizes the Black Family Reunion and
6 other signature National Council of Negro Women
7 programs as vital cultural institutions that celebrate
8 unity, affirm identity, and reinforce the strength of
9 Black families and communities;

10 (6) reaffirms the House of Representatives ap-
11 preciation for the National Council of Negro Women
12 as a civic leader, community anchor, and enduring
13 fixture on Pennsylvania Avenue, embodying the spir-
14 it of justice, service, and empowerment; and

15 (7) encourages all Americans to join in cele-
16 brating the National Council of Negro Women's 90
17 years of leadership, advocacy, and transformative
18 impact.

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