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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES.

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Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the release of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, recognizing the significance of his contribution to democracy and racial equality in South Africa, and honoring his life-long dedication to building a more equitable and united world.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the release of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, recognizing the significance of his contribution to democracy and racial equality in South Africa, and honoring his life-long dedication to building a more equitable and united world.

Whereas February 11, 2010, marks the 20th anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's release from prison for his actions as a leading member of the African National Congress' (ANC) efforts to dismantle the rule of apartheid;

Whereas apartheid was a system of racial segregation that restricted and prohibited Black South Africans and other people of color from utilizing certain public, educational,

and health care facilities and services, and opportunities to access land, property, and wealth;

Whereas at 4:14pm on February 11, 1990, Mandela exited the Victor Verster prison in Paarl ending 27 years, 6 months, and 1 week of unbroken incarceration;

Whereas the release of Nelson Mandela resulted from decades of international pressure through sanctions, including the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 and the condemnation of apartheid by countless leaders, artists, intellectuals, and activists in Africa and around the world;

Whereas Mandela used the Rivonia Trial as a forum to eloquently express his political beliefs, and privately decided that, if sentenced to death, he would not appeal the decision;

Whereas Mandela spent the first 18 years of his incarceration at the infamous maximum security jail on Robben Island, and 7 years at facilities in Cape Town and Paarl before he was finally released;

Whereas on the day of his release on February 11, 1990, 71-year-old Nelson Mandela addressed close to 60,000 people of various ethnic backgrounds who gathered at City Hall in Cape Town to witness him giving a speech that was televised throughout South Africa and watched by tens of millions around the world;

Whereas his release was met with elation by supporters of the ANC who were rejoicing and dancing in the streets of Cape Town and throughout South Africa;

Whereas Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk successfully fought to hold together the threads of peaceful negotiation;

Whereas on the day of his release, Nelson Mandela quoted the famous words from his testimony during his 1964 trial that resulted in his 27 year incarceration, “I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.”;

Whereas despite his imprisonment, Nelson Mandela never wavered from his resolve to create a free and democratic South Africa and initiated a dialogue with the apartheid regime, which culminated in his eventual release and the reinstatement of the ANC as a legitimate political party days before his release in 1990;

Whereas the release of Nelson Mandela was a defining moment in the global effort to end apartheid;

Whereas a series of negotiations between the South African Government and the ANC resulted in the abolishment of apartheid and an election in which almost 20,000,000 South Africans of all ethnicities cast their vote under a national policy of universal suffrage;

Whereas Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as President of the Republic of South Africa on May 10, 1994, and pledged to lead a “united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist government” for all people of South Africa;

Whereas the presidency of Nelson Mandela saw distinct advancements toward racial equality in South Africa, as the nation transitioned from apartheid and minority rule to a country that aspired to achieve reconciliation, equality and peace; and

Whereas Nelson Mandela's life and work continue to inspire individuals living in South Africa and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commemorates the 20th anniversary of Nel-  
3       son Rolihlahla Mandela's release from 27 years of  
4       unjust imprisonment;

5               (2) recognizes the release of Nelson Mandela as  
6       a significant event in South Africa's attempt to  
7       achieve an equal and democratic society; and

8               (3) recognizes Nelson Mandela's pivotal role in  
9       ending apartheid and as a figure of progress,  
10       strength, and reconciliation in South Africa and in  
11       the global community.