

House Resolution 266

By: Representatives Heckstall of the 55th, Epps of the 131st and Brooks of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Honorable Winnie Mandela and inviting her to appear before the House of
2 Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela is internationally renowned for her courageous activism and
4 leadership during the South African anti-apartheid movement and for outspoken advocacy
5 for women's rights worldwide; and

6 WHEREAS, she was born on September 26, 1936, in Bizana Transkei, the fourth of eight
7 children; and

8 WHEREAS, she received a bachelor's degree in political science with a major in
9 International Relations from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg; and

10 WHEREAS, her political convictions first began to form in response to the appalling social
11 inequities she witnessed while working as the first black social worker at Baragwanath
12 Hospital; and

13 WHEREAS, her involvement in the South African liberation struggles dates back to the
14 1950's; and

15 WHEREAS, she was first arrested in 1958, and in 1969 she became one of the first detainees
16 under the notorious Terrorism Act and was detained in solitary confinement for 18 months;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, on May 16, 1977, she was exiled to Brand Fort for nine years; and

19 WHEREAS, she suffered continuous harassment from the South African government and
20 endured the bombing of her house and a forced separation from her husband, Nelson
21 Mandela, who was imprisoned on Robben Island for 25 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela's courage and optimism triumphed over years of political
2 persecution, severe personal pain, and a wave of media controversy and enabled her to
3 become the President of the African National Congress' Women's League in 1993; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1991, she was elected National Executive to the African National Congress
5 and presently maintains her position as a member of Parliament.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
7 the members of this body recognize and commend the Honorable Winnie Mandela whose
8 extraordinary personal sacrifices and courageous acts helped to liberate South Africa and
9 whose continuing acts of unselfish public service continue to advance the cause of liberty and
10 equality.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Winnie Mandela is invited to appear before the House
12 of Representatives on a date and time to be determined by the Speaker.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
14 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable Winnie Mandela.