

House Resolution 159

By: Representative Brooks of the 63rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Women's Equality Day and commending the First Annual Women's Equality
2 Day Tea and Luncheon in Douglas County; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, August marked the anniversary of the 1920 ratification of the 19th Amendment
4 to the United States Constitution granting the right to vote to women, and in 1971, a joint
5 Resolution of Congress declared August 26 of each year to be Women's Equality Day; and

6 WHEREAS, on Women's Equality Day, the nation recognizes the hard work and
7 perseverance of those women and men who labored through the years to secure women's
8 suffrage in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the first women's rights meeting in the United States was held at Seneca Falls,
10 New York, in 1848, following several decades of a quietly emerging egalitarian spirit among
11 women, and at that meeting, women drafted a Declaration of Sentiments proclaiming they
12 had the same rights as men, and in the ensuing years, thousands of women and men like them
13 worked to ensure that future generations of women could realize the promise of America; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1917, three years after establishing women's suffrage in the state, the citizens
15 of Montana elected Jeannette Rankin to Congress, the first woman with that honor, and in
16 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, sending it to the states, and on August 26,
17 1920, after Tennessee ratified the Amendment by one vote, the 19th Amendment was
18 adopted; and

19 WHEREAS, today, American women are leaders in business, government, law, science,
20 medicine, the arts, education, and many other fields, and women-owned businesses account
21 for nearly half of all privately held firms and are opening at twice the rate of male-owned
22 businesses; through vision, determination, and a strong work ethic, remarkable American
23 women have broadened opportunities for themselves and women around the world; and

24 WHEREAS, the full participation of women and the protection of their rights as citizens are
25 essential for freedom and democracy to flourish, and as the nation looks to the future, we
26 celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of women in America and throughout the world
27 and renew our commitment to equality for all women, both at home and abroad; and

28 WHEREAS, on August 26, 2010, the First Annual Women's Equality Day Tea and Luncheon
29 was held at St. Julian's Church in Douglas County to celebrate the ratification of the 19th
30 Amendment and to remember those courageous women and men who have worked so hard
31 through the years to ensure women's rights.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize Women's Equality Day and commend the First Annual
34 Women's Equality Day Tea and Luncheon in Douglas County.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to members of the public and
37 the press.