

House Resolution 259

By: Representatives Dukes of the 150th and Fullerton of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mrs. Shirley Sherrod and inviting her to be recognized by the
2 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shirley Sherrod has long been recognized for the vital role that she has
4 played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of the
5 United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod was born in Baker County, Georgia, the beloved daughter of
7 Grace and Hosie Miller, and she was among the first black students to enroll in the
8 previously all-white high school in Baker County; and

9 WHEREAS, at the age of 17, Mrs. Sherrod's father, a deacon of the local Baptist church, was
10 shot to death by a white farmer reportedly over a dispute about livestock; and

11 WHEREAS, this tragedy was a turning point in Mrs. Sherrod's life and guided her career
12 towards work with the United States Department of Agriculture in Georgia, helping minority
13 farmers keep their land; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod attended Fort Valley State College and Albany State University,
15 working for civil rights with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and earned
16 a master's degree from Antioch University; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2009, Mrs. Sherrod was hired by the United States Department of Agriculture
18 as the Georgia director of rural development, making her the first black person to ever hold
19 the position; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod was forced to resign in 2010 after edited video clips of a speech
21 given by Mrs. Sherrod were used as political fodder that ignited backlash within the
22 government; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod was given full apologies from the government and offered a new
24 position after the full context of her speech came to light; however, she has chosen to remain
25 a private citizen and works diligently promoting candidates and speaking on the nation's race
26 relation issues.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body commend Mrs. Shirley Sherrod for her commitment and dedication
29 to this nation, applaud her years of service to minority farmers, and invite her to be
30 recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Shirley Sherrod.