

House Resolution 262

By: Representatives Dukes of the 150th, Fullerton of the 151st, Brooks of the 63rd, Williams of the 89th, Heard of the 114th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mrs. Shirley Sherrod; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mrs. Shirley Sherrod has long been recognized for the vital role that she has
3 played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of the
4 United States; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod was born in Baker County, Georgia, the beloved daughter of
6 Grace and Hosie Miller, and she was among the first black students to enroll in the
7 previously all-white high school in Baker County; and
- 8 WHEREAS, at the age of 17, Mrs. Sherrod's father, a deacon of the local Baptist church, was
9 shot to death by a white farmer reportedly over a dispute about livestock; and
- 10 WHEREAS, this tragedy was a turning point in Mrs. Sherrod's life and guided her career
11 towards work with the United States Department of Agriculture in Georgia, helping minority
12 farmers keep their land; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod attended Fort Valley State College and Albany State University,
14 working for civil rights with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and earned a
15 master's degree from Antioch University; and
- 16 WHEREAS, in 2009, Mrs. Sherrod was hired by the United States Department of Agriculture
17 as the Georgia director of rural development, making her the first black person to ever hold
18 the position; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sherrod was forced to resign in 2010 after edited video clips of a speech
20 given by Mrs. Sherrod were used as political fodder that ignited backlash within the
21 government; and

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

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize Mrs. Shirley Sherrod for her commitment and dedication
28 to this nation and commend her years of service to minority farmers.

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