

House Resolution 366

By: Representatives Randall of the 142nd, Beverly of the 143rd, Smyre of the 135th, Williams of the 168th, and Brooks of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Dr. Al Sharpton on his outstanding public service;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Al Sharpton, a civil rights pioneer, radio host, TV personality,
4 and columnist, has long been recognized for his lifelong efforts to eliminate inequality and
5 for his deep personal commitment to the civil rights of the citizens of the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Reverend Al Sharpton, who has become known as the
7 "voice of the downtrodden," has challenged the American political establishment to include
8 all people regardless of race, gender, socio-economic status, or beliefs, and his oratory skills
9 have served as an impetus for change; and

10 WHEREAS, Rev. Al Sharpton, born on October 3, 1954, in Brooklyn, New York, began his
11 ministry at the age of four, preaching his first sermon at Washington Temple Church of God
12 and Christ; and

13 WHEREAS, at the age of 13, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Reverend William Jones
14 appointed him youth director of New York's SCLC Operation Breadbasket, an organization
15 founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

16 WHEREAS, he founded the National Youth Movement at the age of 16, organizing young
17 people around the country to push for increased voter registration, cultural awareness, and
18 job training programs; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Al Sharpton's direct action movements have been credited with
20 drawing attention to racial injustice and racial profiling, and he has influenced police
21 department reform across the nation; and

22 WHEREAS, he has also been at the vanguard of issues promoting equal standards and
23 decency, holding people accountable for perpetrating negative and racist stereotypes; and he
24 has been successful in getting the private sector to engage in contracts with minority
25 communities, taking him "from the streets to the suites"; and

26 WHEREAS, one of his career highlights has been contributing to the end of the United States
27 Navy exercises in Vieques, Puerto Rico, showing his passion for confronting human rights
28 violations; and he is also a leader on issues regarding educational equality in the US; and

29 WHEREAS, Reverend Al Sharpton is the founder and president of the National Action
30 Network, a nonprofit civil rights organization that has become the most active social justice
31 organization in the country; and

32 WHEREAS, the organization led the nationwide campaign for voter engagement, national
33 gun violence intervention, and healthcare reform; and

34 WHEREAS, he is currently the host of a television show on MSNBC that analyzes the top
35 political and social news of the day and features the country's leading news makers; and

36 WHEREAS, Reverend Al Sharpton was educated in New York public schools and attended
37 Brooklyn College, and he also has an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from
38 Bethune-Cookman University and Virginia Union University and an honorary degree from
39 A.P. Bible College; and

40 WHEREAS, Reverend Al Sharpton has had an irrefutable impact on national politics and
41 civil rights because of his strong commitment to equality and progressive politics, and it is
42 abundantly fitting and proper that he be recognized.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body recognize and commend Reverend Dr. Al Sharpton for the
45 tremendous contributions he has made to the nation.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Dr. Al Sharpton.