

House Resolution 959

By: Representatives Willis of the 55th and Dickey of the 134th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Kendall Rae Johnson; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Kendall Rae Johnson, a trailblazer in urban farming and food sustainability, has
3 made history as the youngest certified farmer in the United States, achieving this remarkable
4 feat at just nine years old; and

5 WHEREAS, born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Kendall Rae's passion for agriculture began
6 at the age of three, inspired by the enduring wisdom of her late great-grandmother, Laura
7 "Kate" Williams, who encouraged her to "put collard greens back in the dirt"; and

8 WHEREAS, what began with a small patio garden has since grown into a flourishing urban
9 farming initiative, through which Kendall Rae cultivates cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and
10 her signature collard greens, all while encouraging thousands of young people across the
11 country to embrace agriculture as a pathway to entrepreneurship and sustainability; and

12 WHEREAS, as the founder of Kendall Rae's Green Heart Non-Profit Organization, she has
13 empowered more than 400 students and supported over 54 youth entrepreneurs through
14 agricultural education, sustainability programs, and business mentorship; and

15 WHEREAS, Kendall Rae continues to break barriers as the first-ever United States
16 Department of Agriculture Urban Agriculture Youth Ambassador, using her platform to
17 advocate for food sustainability, youth empowerment, and increased access to agricultural
18 opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, in her role as USDA Youth Ambassador, she will embark on the 1890
20 Land-Grant University Tour in partnership with USDA's NUag and Virginia State
21 University, promoting financial literacy, urban farming practices, USDA youth loans, and
22 career pathways in agriculture at historically Black colleges and universities; and

23 WHEREAS, she is also the author of the acclaimed children's book *I'm Growing Places*,
24 which encourages young readers to engage in gardening, farming, and entrepreneurship, and
25 she recently launched Kraezy Good Tomato Sauce – Easy Kid Cooking to promote healthy
26 eating in a fun, accessible way; and

27 WHEREAS, Kendall Rae Johnson continues to nurture the next generation of farmers,
28 entrepreneurs, and environmental leaders, making it abundantly fitting and proper that she
29 be appropriately honored during this special time.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize and commend Kendall Rae Johnson for her
32 groundbreaking contributions to agriculture, youth development, and entrepreneurship as
33 well as extend best wishes for continued success in all her future endeavors.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
36 Kendall Rae Johnson.