

Senate Resolution 729

By: Senators Jones II of the 22nd, Jackson of the 41st, Parent of the 44th, Orrock of the 36th, Merritt of the 9th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and honoring former President Barack Obama during Black History Month and
2 condemning racist attacks and rhetoric directed toward him; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Barack Hussein Obama was born in the United States on August 4, 1961, in
4 Honolulu, Hawaii, and from an early age experienced a life shaped by travel, curiosity, and
5 engagement with cultures across the United States and the world, including time spent in the
6 Midwest and Indonesia; and

7 WHEREAS, Barack Obama graduated from Columbia University with a degree in
8 International Relations, during which time he actively protested the great historical evil of
9 apartheid in South Africa; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1988, Barack Obama enrolled at Harvard Law School, where he made history
11 as the first Black editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, graduating magna cum laude in 1991
12 and beginning a distinguished career as a constitutional law scholar and professor; and

13 WHEREAS, Obama achieved international literary acclaim with his memoir *Dreams From*
14 *My Father*, regarded by some as the finest book ever written by a President and outselling
15 every other President's book offerings; and

16 WHEREAS, from 1997 to 2004, Barack Obama served the people of Illinois as a member
17 of the Illinois State Senate before his election to the United States Senate in 2004, where his
18 leadership and oratory ignited a hope based movement of people working together to
19 continue our nation's progress; and

20 WHEREAS, in 2008, Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States,
21 becoming the first Black President in American history, winning an electoral landslide
22 unparalleled in the 21st century, and drawing nearly 2 million people to the Mall for the
23 largest Inaugural ever; and

24 WHEREAS, his two-term presidency was marked by recovery from the Great Recession, a
25 historic rescue of the American auto industry, the most significant expansion of access to
26 health care in generations, and the end of the war in Iraq; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2009, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his
28 contributions to diplomacy and international cooperation; and

29 WHEREAS, throughout his public life, presidency, and post-presidency, Obama endured
30 persistent and often vicious racist attacks, including the insidious "birther" movement, which
31 sought to delegitimize his presidency with ugly racism; and

32 WHEREAS, in 2026, during Black History Month, the sitting President of the United States
33 posted a video containing offensive and racist tropes and refused to issue an apology,
34 drawing widespread condemnation, including rebukes from United States Senator Tim Scott
35 from South Carolina who described the video as "the most racist thing I've seen out of this
36 White House"; and

37 WHEREAS, such rhetoric stands in direct opposition to the values of equality, dignity, and
38 mutual respect that Black History Month exists to honor and uplift; and

39 WHEREAS, Barack Obama remains a figure of extraordinary historical importance whose
40 life and presidency expanded the boundaries of possibility for millions of Americans and
41 inspired generations at home and abroad.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
43 recognize and celebrate the extraordinary life, legacy, and service of former President Barack
44 Obama during Black History Month.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body condemn racist rhetoric and
46 conduct from any quarter, including that emanating from the President of the United States,
47 and affirm its commitment to the principles of equality, justice, and respect.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
50 press.