

HR 9095

2015

## House Resolution

A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of  
Asa Philip Randolph.

WHEREAS, born April 15, 1889, in Crescent City, Florida,  
Asa Philip Randolph was born to Reverend James and Elizabeth  
Randolph, both strong supporters of equal rights for African  
Americans, and

WHEREAS, in 1891, after moving to Jacksonville, the family  
settled into a well-established African-American community where  
James and Elizabeth Randolph taught their children the  
importance of education and that color was less important than a  
person's character and conduct, and

WHEREAS, Asa Randolph attended the Cookman Institute in  
East Jacksonville, one of the first institutions of higher  
education for African Americans in the country, where he was  
valedictorian of his 1907 graduating class, and

WHEREAS, soon after moving to New York where he began to  
hone his views on the fight for social equality, Asa Randolph  
married Lucille Green, a Howard University graduate who shared  
his political views, and began to harangue the crowds at  
Harlem's soapbox corner, 135th Street and Lenox Avenue, about  
the importance of militant-class consciousness, and

WHEREAS, in 1917, William White, president of the  
Headwaiters and Sidewaiters Society of Greater New York,  
approached Asa Randolph and asked him in conjunction with close

HR 9095

2015

27 collaborator Chandler Owen to edit the Messenger, the monthly  
28 magazine of the society, and the first issue was published in  
29 November of that year, marking the debut of one of the most  
30 brilliantly edited magazines in the history of Black journalism,  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, as founding president of the Brotherhood of  
33 Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), Asa Randolph sought to enter the  
34 union in the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which  
35 frequently barred blacks from membership, and in 1937 with the  
36 win of its first major contract with the Pullman Company the  
37 BSCP finalized its membership into the AFL, making them the  
38 first successful African-American trade union in the United  
39 States, and

40 WHEREAS, becoming one of the most widely known  
41 spokespersons for black working class interests in the country,  
42 Asa Randolph called on the support of nearly 100,000 loyal Black  
43 citizens to march on Washington, D.C., to protest President  
44 Franklin D. Roosevelt's refusal to issue an executive order to  
45 ban discrimination against black workers in the defense  
46 industry, and

47 WHEREAS, six days before the march was to commence,  
48 President Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 on June 25,  
49 1941, declaring "there shall be no discrimination in the  
50 employment of workers in defense industries or government  
51 because of race, creed, color, or national origin" in addition

HR 9095

2015

52 | to establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission to  
53 | oversee the order, and

54 |       WHEREAS, Asa Randolph boldly founded the League for  
55 | Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Against Military Segregation,  
56 | urging young soldiers both black and white to refuse to  
57 | cooperate with the injustice of Jim Crow, and the public  
58 | outcries of military injustice rang loudly, pressuring President  
59 | Harry S. Truman to order the end to military segregation on July  
60 | 26, 1948, and

61 |       WHEREAS, drawing much-needed attention to civil rights  
62 | issues in the South, Asa Philip Randolph was named chair of the  
63 | 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave  
64 | his historic "I Have a Dream" speech, and in 1964 Asa Randolph  
65 | was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and

66 |       WHEREAS, continuing his fight for economic justice,  
67 | Randolph later formed the A. Philip Randolph Institute to  
68 | promote trade unionism in the black community, and

69 |       WHEREAS, on May 10, 2014, Asa Philip Randolph was awarded a  
70 | posthumous Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Edward  
71 | Waters College, and

72 |       WHEREAS, Asa Philip Randolph is considered one of the most  
73 | prominent African-American trade unionists in American history  
74 | and one of the strongest advocates for civil rights and racial  
75 | equality, NOW, THEREFORE,

76 |

HR 9095

2015

77 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
78 Florida:

79

80 That Asa Philip Randolph is honored and celebrated for a  
81 distinguished legacy of accomplishments and contributions that  
82 have bettered the lives of countless Americans.