

HR 8059

2022

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring former United States
3 Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, in memoriam, for her
4 legacy of leadership, advocacy, and public service and
5 her countless contributions to the state.
6

7 WHEREAS, former United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek
8 was born in Tallahassee, Florida, on April 29, 1926, to Willie
9 and Carrie Pittman who began their lives together as
10 sharecroppers, and

11 WHEREAS, as the granddaughter of "Miss Mandy," a slave born
12 and raised in Lilly, Georgia, Congresswoman Meek grew up during
13 the turbulent Jim Crow era but would overcome many racial,
14 gender, and educational barriers during her lifetime, and

15 WHEREAS, in 1946, Congresswoman Meek earned a Bachelor of
16 Science in Biology and Physical Education from Florida
17 Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), where she was a
18 member of the esteemed Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and

19 WHEREAS, in the 1940s, a state law prohibited Black
20 students from attending public graduate schools, which forced
21 Congresswoman Meek to enroll out of state at the University of
22 Michigan, where she earned a Master of Science in Public Health
23 and Physical Education, and

24 WHEREAS, upon graduating from the University of Michigan,
25 Congresswoman Meek accepted a position at Bethune-Cookman

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26 College as an instructor and became the institution's first
27 female basketball coach, and

28 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Meek later returned to FAMU as a
29 health and physical education instructor, a position she would
30 hold until 1961, and

31 WHEREAS, after leaving FAMU, Congresswoman Meek continued
32 her career in higher education at Miami Dade Community College,
33 where she became the first Black professor, Associate Dean, and
34 Assistant to the Vice President of the college, and

35 WHEREAS, in 1978, Congresswoman Meek ran for the Florida
36 House of Representatives and defeated 12 other candidates to win
37 her place in the Florida Legislature, serving from 1979 to 1983
38 and chairing the Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and

39 WHEREAS, beginning in 1983, Congresswoman Meek served as
40 the first Black woman elected to the Florida Senate and the
41 first Black legislator to serve in that legislative body in more
42 than a century, and

43 WHEREAS, as a skilled lawmaker who was once called "the
44 conscience of the Florida Senate," Congresswoman Meek passed
45 significant legislation to promote literacy and encourage
46 students to stay in school and was a long-time champion of
47 housing rights, and

48 WHEREAS, in 1992, Congresswoman Meek continued her
49 trailblazing political career representing Florida's 17th
50 Congressional District as a member of the United States House of

51 Representatives and becoming one of the first Black members from
 52 the state elected to the United States Congress since the
 53 Reconstruction era, and

54 WHEREAS, while serving in the United States Congress,
 55 Congresswoman Meek was a member of the powerful House Committee
 56 on Appropriations and worked to secure \$100 million in aid to
 57 rebuild Dade County as the area recovered from Hurricane Andrew,
 58 and

59 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Meek built her legacy on advocating
 60 for equal and fair treatment for all individuals, regardless of
 61 the color of their skin, stating "I didn't go into politics with
 62 a chip on my shoulder, but I let people up there know I expected
 63 to get the same results as anybody else," and

64 WHEREAS, after leaving the United States Congress,
 65 Congresswoman Meek returned to her community to fully dedicate
 66 herself to charitable activities through the Carrie Meek
 67 Foundation, which serves as an extension of the public service
 68 to which she was committed throughout her lifetime, and

69 WHEREAS, on November 28, 2021, Congresswoman Meek passed
 70 away, leaving behind a legacy that will significantly enrich
 71 future generations of Florida residents, NOW, THEREFORE,

72
 73 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 74 Florida:

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76 That former United States Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek is
77 honored, in memoriam, for her legacy of leadership, advocacy,
78 and public service and her countless contributions to the state.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
80 presented to the family members of Congresswoman Meek as a
81 tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.