

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL'S NOSTRA AETATE—
40TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

Nov. 10, 2005
[H. Con. Res. 260]

Whereas 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of Nostra Aetate, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions;

Whereas on October 28, 1965, after the overwhelmingly affirmative vote of the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul VI issued Nostra Aetate, which means “in our time”;

Whereas Nostra Aetate affirmed the respect of the Roman Catholic Church for Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, and exhorted Catholics to engage in “dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions”;

Whereas Nostra Aetate made possible a new relationship between Catholics and Jews worldwide and opened a chapter in Jewish-Christian relations that is unprecedented in its closeness and warmth;

Whereas Nostra Aetate states that the Roman Catholic Church “decries hatred, persecution, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone”; and

Whereas Nostra Aetate clearly states that “No foundation therefore remains for any theory or practice that leads to discrimination between man and man or people and people, so far as their human dignity and the rights flowing from it are concerned.”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),
That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s promulgation of Nostra Aetate, the declaration on the relation of the Roman Catholic Church to non-Christian religions;

(2) appreciates the role of the Holy See in combating religious intolerance and religious discrimination;

(3) encourages the United States to continue to serve in a leading role in combating anti-Semitism and other forms of religious intolerance and religious discrimination worldwide;

(4) acknowledges the role of Nostra Aetate in fostering interreligious dialogue and mutual respect, including, in particular, new relationships of collaboration and dialogue between Jews and Catholics since the issuance of Nostra Aetate; and

(5) requests the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate and the historic role of Nostra Aetate in fostering mutual interreligious respect and dialogue.

Agreed to November 10, 2005.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM—40TH
ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

Nov. 15, 2005
[H. Con. Res. 269]

Whereas in 1964, John W. Gardner presented the idea of selecting a handful of outstanding men and women to come to Washington

to participate as Fellows and learn the workings of the highest levels of the Federal Government to learn about leadership as they observed the Nation's officials in action and met with these officials and other leaders of society, thereby strengthening the Fellows' abilities and desires to contribute to their communities, their professions, and their country;

Whereas President Lyndon B. Johnson established the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, through Executive Order No. 11183, to create a program that would select between 11 and 19 outstanding young Americans every year and bring them to Washington for "first hand, high-level experience in the workings of the Federal Government, to establish an era when the young men and women of America and their Government belonged to each other—belonged to each other in fact and in spirit";

Whereas the White House Fellows Program has steadfastly remained a nonpartisan program that has served 8 Presidents exceptionally well;

Whereas the more than 600 White House Fellows that have served have established a legacy of leadership in every aspect of American society that includes appointments as Cabinet officials and senior White House staff, election to the House of Representatives, Senate, and State and local government, appointments to the Federal, State, and local judiciary, appointments as United States Attorneys, leadership in many of the Nation's largest corporations and law firms, service as presidents of colleges and universities, deans of our most distinguished graduate schools, officials in nonprofit organizations, distinguished scholars and historians, and service as senior leaders in every branch of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas this legacy of leadership is a national resource that has been used by the Nation in major challenges including organizing resettlement operations following the Vietnam War, assisting with the national response to terrorist attacks, managing the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and reforming and innovating in national and international securities and capital markets;

Whereas the more than 600 White House Fellows have characterized their post-Fellowship years with a lifetime commitment to public service through continuing personal and professional renewal and association, creating a Fellows community of mutual support for leadership at every level of government and in every element of our national life; and

Whereas September 1, 2005, marked the 40th anniversary of the first class of White House Fellows to serve this Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the White House Fellows program and commends the White House Fellows for their continuing lifetime commitment to public service;

(2) acknowledges the legacy of leadership provided by White House Fellows over the years in their local communities, the Nation, and the world; and

(3) expresses appreciation and support for the continuing leadership of White House Fellows in all aspects of our national life in the years ahead.

Agreed to November 15, 2005.

ROSA LOUISE PARKS AND THE 1955
MONTGOMERY, AL, BUS BOYCOTT—50TH
ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

Nov. 18, 2005
[H. Con. Res. 208]

Whereas most historians date the beginning of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement in the United States to December 1, 1955;

Whereas December 1, 1955, is the date of Rosa Louise Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man and her subsequent arrest;

Whereas Rosa Louise Parks was born on February 4, 1913, as Rosa Louise McCauley to James and Leona McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama;

Whereas Rosa Louise Parks was educated in Pine Level, Alabama, until the age of 11, when she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls and then went on to attend the Alabama State Teachers College's High School;

Whereas on December 18, 1932, Rosa Louise McCauley married Raymond Parks and the two settled in Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas, together, Raymond and Rosa Parks worked in the Montgomery, Alabama, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where Raymond served as an active member and Rosa served as a secretary and youth leader;

Whereas on December 1, 1955, Rosa Louise Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat in the "colored" section of the bus to a white man on the orders of the bus driver because the "white" section was full;

Whereas the arrest of Rosa Louise Parks led African Americans and others to boycott the Montgomery city bus line until the buses in Montgomery were desegregated;

Whereas the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott encouraged other courageous people across the United States to organize in protest and demand equal rights for all;

Whereas the fearless acts of civil disobedience displayed by Rosa Louise Parks and others resulted in a legal action challenging Montgomery's segregated public transportation system which subsequently led to the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, affirming a district court decision that held that Montgomery segregation codes deny and deprive African Americans of the equal protection of the laws (352 U.S. 903);

Whereas, in the years following the Montgomery bus boycott, Rosa Louise Parks moved to Detroit, Michigan, in 1957, and continued her civil rights work through efforts that included working in the office of Congressman John Conyers, Jr., from 1965 until