

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Jewell Williams

DATE: June 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship resolution: Oprah Gail Winfrey

In the near future, I will introduce a resolution honoring the career and lifetime accomplishments of Oprah Gail Winfrey.

Oprah Gail Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954, in Kosciusko, Mississippi. She overcame a traumatic childhood to become a philanthropist, television host, and one of the most influential media personalities worldwide.

In 1973, Oprah graduated from Tennessee State University and became the youngest and first African-American TV news anchor reporter with WTVF-TV. A decade later, Oprah moved to Chicago to host a half-hour morning talk-show. Within months, the show went on to become the highest rated talk show in Chicago and was renamed "*The Oprah Winfrey Show*". In 1987, Oprah won her first Emmy award for best talk/service show host and best show.

Oprah testified before the US congress and initiated the National Child Protection Act in 1991. In 1995, Oprah became the first woman and the only African-American on Forbes list of 400 richest Americans, and in 2002, Oprah received the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award for her services to television and film. In 2005, Oprah was named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of the year. Furthermore, Oprah was the first African-American listed by Business Week as one of America's top 50 most generous philanthropists. To date, she has invested \$40 million, creating the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls near Johannesburg in South Africa, which started in January 2007.

Through the power of media, Oprah Winfrey has created a connection with people around the world. With '*The Oprah Winfrey Show*', she has entertained, enlightened, and uplifted millions of viewers for two decades. Her accomplishments as a global media leader and philanthropist have established her as one of the most respected and admired public figures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Ashley Jere' Roach in my office at (717) 772-2004 x6022 or e-mail aroach@pahouse.net. Thank you.