

WHEREAS, On April 6, 1909, then Commander Robert E. Peary, Matthew Henson, and four Inuits reached the North Pole, with Matthew Henson having arrived first because he was breaking trail ahead of the group; and

WHEREAS, Although Matthew Henson trekked over 400 miles to stand at the axis top of the world, because of his race, he was relatively unknown in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Henson's accomplishment was eventually recognized in many ways, including: the receipt of a Master of Science Degree from Morgan State College and Howard University; the naming after him of three arctic locations, a bay, a cape, and a glacier; and the honoring of Commander Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson through a State park, a number of public schools, a U.S. Navy Oceanographic ship, and a U.S. postage stamp; and

WHEREAS, The people of Maryland would like to recognize the magnificent contributions of Matthew Henson, a native Marylander and a co-discoverer of the North Pole, by erecting a memorial to honor him; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution 15 during the 2000 Legislative Session that created a Task Force to Study Establishing a Matthew Henson Memorial, however, the task force was not able to meet and report its recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Task Force to Study Establishing a Matthew Henson Memorial shall receive extended time to complete its study; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall study:

(1) An appropriate memorial to commemorate the achievements of Matthew Henson;

(2) An appropriate site, within a suitable location, for the Matthew Henson Memorial; and

(3) The costs associated with establishing a Matthew Henson Memorial; and be it further :

RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2001; and be it further;

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Signed May 18, 2001.