

RESOLUTION NO. 497

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF
DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND IN SUPPORT FOR
PLACEMENT IN STATUARY HALL OF A STATUE OF
HARRIET TUBMAN IN LIEU OF A STATUE OF JOHN HANSON**

WHEREAS, by act of Congress, each State is invited to provide and furnish statues, not exceeding two in number, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services, such as the State shall determine to be worthy of national commemoration in a national statuary hall;

WHEREAS, Equal Visibility Everywhere (EVE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to achieving gender parity for symbols of figures with historic significance;

WHEREAS, EVE has partnered with the Maryland National Organization for Women (Maryland NOW) to urge Maryland lawmakers to approve a new statue for the United States Capital by replacing one of the two statues currently in the National Statuary Hall;

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman, who was born a slave under the given name Araminta Ross, in Dorchester County, Maryland, in about 1820 (the exact date and year of her birth are unknown) and suffered a traumatic head injury at the hand of a slave owner early in her life which caused a lifetime of headaches, seizures, and visions;

WHEREAS, in 1849 she fled north to freedom, and then immediately returned to Maryland risking her life to free her family and joined the secret network of free African-Americans and white sympathizers who helped runaways escape—the Underground Railroad.

WHEREAS, she became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, risking her life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom becoming known as “the Moses of her people”;

WHEREAS when the Civil War began, Tubman became a Union spy, organizing an espionage network of slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confederate lines and on several occasions led military raiding parties, and also tended the Union wounded as an army nurse.

WHEREAS, after the war she devoted herself to women’s suffrage, the care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen’s schools in the South;

WHEREAS, because of Harriet Tubman’s enormous courage, humanitarian efforts, and the inspiration she provides to all Americans this resolution, the County Council of Dorchester County agrees that the placement of Harriet Tubman in National Statuary Hall from the State of Maryland would be a much deserved honor;

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland in years past did provide for the placing of two statues of distinguished citizens of Maryland in statuary hall;

WHEREAS, one of such statues is of the Honorable John Hanson (1715-1783), a Maryland merchant and delegate to the Continental Congress. From 1781 to 1782 he served as "President of the United States in Congress" assembled under the Articles of Confederation and after a one-year term Hanson retired to the country, where he died in 1783;

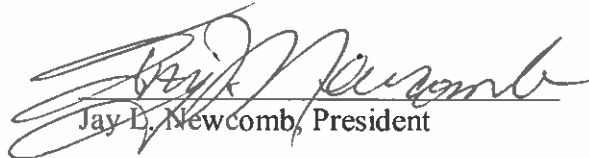
WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the coalition of EVE and Maryland NOW that John Hanson can best be honored by locating his statue in a place of honor in the capitol of the State of Maryland where it may be enjoyed by our citizens and visitors;

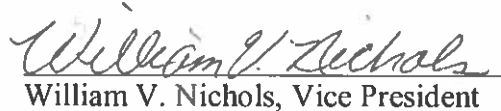
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Council of Dorchester County hereby expresses its support of possible legislation to be drafted by the State of Maryland requesting that the Congress of the United States return the statue of John Hanson and replace that statue with a statue of Harriet Tubman, an esteemed citizen of Dorchester County, the State of Maryland and a citizen of the United States of America, and worthy of national commemoration in Statuary Hall; provided the State can meet the statutory requests of such action.

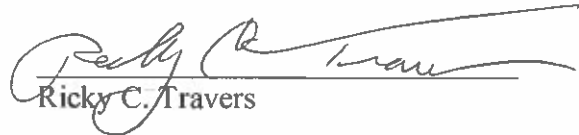
**THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**

ATTEST:

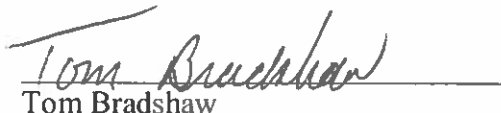

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