

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6004

A RESOLUTION honoring George Washington Carver.

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver was an eminent American botanist, chemurgist and educator who made significant contributions and gained world renown through his research in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver was born into slavery near Diamond Grove, Missouri, on or about July 12, 1861. When he was a baby, he, his sister and mother were stolen by Confederate raiders and sold in Arkansas. Although near death with whooping cough, he was retrieved by his master, Moses Carver, upon payment of a prized racehorse valued at \$300; and

WHEREAS, He left home at age 10 to enroll in a school in Neosho, Missouri, and later attended school at Fort Scott. He moved with the Seymour family to Minneapolis where he completed his high school studies in 1884; and

WHEREAS, After being offered a scholarship he was refused entrance into Highland College because of his race. In 1888, George Washington Carver left Kansas to pursue his education in Iowa. He attended the State Agriculture College in Ames where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1894 and a Master's Degree in 1896; and

WHEREAS, In 1896, George Washington Carver accepted Booker T. Washington's invitation to become head of the newly organized agriculture department at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver spent the rest of his life at Tuskegee where he had a distinguished career by developing programs to nourish the land that was worn out by growing only cotton and by finding new uses for soybeans, sweet potatoes and peanuts; and

WHEREAS, Even as a youth, George Washington Carver had an instinctive knowledge of plants. In Alabama he found the soil exhausted from single-crop cotton cultivation, eroded for lack of plant cover and parched by the sun. He taught farmers to restore the soil by planting nitrogen-producing legumes, and he taught crop diversification by planting peanuts and sweet potatoes, both which produced especially good yields in the Alabama soil; and

WHEREAS, Upon discovering that there was no ready market for these new farm products, George Washington Carver began a series of experiments that resulted in more than 300 by-products of the peanut and sweet potato. At the institute's experimental farm he worked with hybrids and various types of fertilizer. He developed a strain of cotton known as Carver's hybrid and grew enormous vegetables; and

WHEREAS, Although George Washington Carver became known world wide for his research and the products he developed, and was offered many positions at high salaries, he refused to leave Tuskegee; moreover, he refused to accept an increase in salary above the \$1,500 a year he received when he first came to Tuskegee; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver published many documents and received many awards for his work. In 1940 the Carver Research Foundation was established at Tuskegee Institute. Following George Washington Carver's death in 1943 at age 79, his entire estate was added to the foundation's endowment; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver's time in Kansas is a featured exhibit at the Ottawa County Historical Museum; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver died January 5, 1943; the United States congress has designated January 5th as a day to honor Mr. Carver each year: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we honor George Washington Carver and the contributions he made to American agriculture.

House Resolution No. 6004 was sponsored by Representatives Dennis McKinney and Doug Mays.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.