

## **The Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act Statements of Support**

### **Girl Scouts**

“Girl Scouts is proud to stand with Congress in honoring Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden with the Congressional Gold Medal for their vital contributions to NASA and the American space program,” **said Sylvia Acevedo, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA.** “These four amazing women inspired generations of girls and women to pursue our interests in the STEM fields. As an engineer, scientist, and former member of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, I am a direct beneficiary of these groundbreaking, courageous women, who blazed a trail for us all. Their impact on NASA, and their place in the pantheon of American scientific history, was hidden for too long. Today, we are excited that they are finally receiving the recognition they deserve.”

### **AIAA**

“The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) wholeheartedly endorses the *Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act*. These women made significant technical **contributions to the nation in the areas of aerodynamics and human spaceflight during the Space Race**. Additionally, these women were pioneers in their fields, serving in roles previously unheard of for women and minorities. AIAA passionately supports increasing diversity in the aerospace and defense workforce, as it will help spur innovation and creative problem solving, to benefit society and the world. Further recognizing these women for their achievements will help future generations be inspired to follow in their footsteps.”

### **TMCF**

"The Thurgood Marshall Fund (TMCF) fully supports Senator Coons and the host of bipartisan Senate co-sponsors of the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act. For many years the inspiring story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden was left hidden in history. Now, this bill would bestow our nation's highest civilian award to four amazing African-American women-who are all graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). As the nation focuses more on STEM education, high honors like the Congressional Gold Medal can serve as a catalyst to ignite the next generation of leaders from HBCUs at NASA and other organizations," **said Dr. Harry L. Williams, President & CEO of Thurgood Marshall College Fund.**

### **AWIS**

“The historic contributions of scientists during the Space Race is important to recognize with the highest honors. The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is honored to support and endorse the bipartisan Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act. We are proud of the extraordinary achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Dr. Christine Darden and many others who paved the way for women, especially women of color, to attain success in the field of science despite tremendous inequities. AWIS research continues to show the need for access, equity and full participation of women in all disciplines of STEM and across all employment sectors so that they can reach their full potential,” **said Sandra W.**

**Robert, CAE, CEO of AWIS**, a global network with 80 grassroots chapters and affiliates connecting more than 100,000 professionals in STEM with members, allies and supporters worldwide.

### **Sloan Foundation**

“For too long, the story of science, like much of our narrative history, has shut out the contributions and experiences of women and people of color. The Sloan Foundation supported Margot Lee Shetterly in writing *Hidden Figures* because she uncovered an incredible and untold story about black female scientists and engineers who played a critical role in the success of the U.S. space program. We believe telling human stories and raising the visibility of women and under-represented groups in science changes how we view both science and society. It can also lead to greater access to STEM education and a more diverse workplace. We’ve been truly gratified at the response to the story of these women and are delighted to work with Senators Coons and Murkowski and their staff to honor these magnificent Americans,” **said Doron Weber, Vice President and Program Director, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation**. “The story of *Hidden Figures* is only one of many stories of invisible women and under-represented groups in science—we have a long way to go in fully recognizing the past role and future potential of these underappreciated figures.”

### **APS**

“The American Physical Society is proud to endorse the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act. The women, who served as computers, mathematicians and engineers, were instrumental to NASA’s success during the Space Race and are eminently worthy of this recognition,” **said David Gross, President of the American Physical Society**. “Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Dr. Christine Darden are particularly extraordinary, and we are delighted to see their accomplishments receive this special recognition by Congress. Their legacies will undoubtedly serve to inspire future generations of students, especially women and underrepresented minorities, to pursue careers in STEM fields.”

### **SWE**

“The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is thrilled to support a bill to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden. These extraordinary women made enormous contributions to NASA and the US space program. They are outstanding role models for the next generation of STEM professionals, and their stories are inspiring to young women nationwide,” **said Karen Horting, Executive Director & CEO of the Society of Women Engineers**.”

### **Margot Shetterly**

“Nothing could be more gratifying than to see these women--quiet heroes from my hometown--recognized for their service to our country,” **said Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race***. “With their commitment to progress through science and an

unyielding belief in equality, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden are role models to us all.”

### **NCWIT**

“Beyond question, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden are legendary Black women in tech whose skills and perspectives made a significant impact on technological innovation, despite societal challenges,” **said Lucy Saunders, CEO and co-founder of the National Center for Women & Information Technology.** “Honoring these women with the Congressional Gold Medal would further the conversation about the critical need to diversify computing fields while inspiring generations to come.”

### **NAM and AWM**

“As Presidents of our respective organizations, we would like to endorse the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act,” **said Edray Goins, President of the National Association of Mathematicians, and Ami Radunskaya, President of the Association for Women in Mathematics.** “Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Dr. Christine Darden made great contributions in the fields of aeronautic design, numerical analysis and simulation, and flight modeling. Their research helped aircraft successfully navigate after breaking the sound barrier, and their humanity inspired women and African Americans alike by breaking social barriers.”

### **MAA**

“The Mathematical Association of America strongly endorses the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act, which honors the work of four pioneering African-American women who broke down cultural barriers to play critical roles in the early success of the U.S. space program. These STEM professionals stand as role models for our own time, demonstrating the potential and talent represented among all members of our diverse society.”

### **ASALH**

“The Association for the Study of African American Life and History believes that it is of the utmost importance to honor the African American women mathematicians who contributed decisively to our nation’s prowess in the crucial early years of spaceflight development and who, for too long, have been the unsung heroes in the space race of the Cold War,” **said Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, National President of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.**

### **AMS**

“The American Mathematical Society applauds Congressional efforts to award Gold Medals to “Hidden Figures” Christine Darden, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan. These women were pioneers, leading the way for woman and people of color in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Over half a century later, girls, women and minorities are still lost at every key point along the way in STEM classes and degree programs. It is

incumbent on us to change this. Giving Gold Medals to these four not only recognizes their own individual outstanding achievements but also elevates them as role models for students who aspire to STEM careers but believe these are out of reach due simply to their gender or race or some other circumstance of birth.”

#### **UNCF (United Negro College Fund, Inc.)**

"UNCF proudly endorses the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act led by Senators Chris Coons, Lisa Murkowski, and Kamala Harris," **said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO at UNCF.** "Recognizing Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden for their extraordinary talents and contributions is well overdue. The time is now for Congress to pass this important piece of legislation as we seek to honor these magnificent women and all women for the roles they have played at NASA during the Space Race."

#### **NCBW (National Congress of Black Women)**

"It's hard to imagine the excitement everybody must feel with the thought of the women of Hidden Figures finally getting the honor they have so long deserved. I am so proud of the service they performed to perfect our union and no one should deny them the honor of a Congressional Gold Medal. I am grateful to Senators Coons, Murkowski and Harris for their effort to bring about this long overdue honor."

#### **AnitaB.org**

“For far too long, the contributions of Black women to our nation’s innovation have gone unsung. AnitaB.org is inspired by the increased effort of women and allies across the STEM ecosystem to bring these stories out of the shadows. As February draws to an end and we consider the importance of Black History Month, it is fitting for the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act to be reintroduced, acknowledging the contributions of Dr. Christine Darden, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan to the space program. Importantly, this bill would acknowledge the myriad women whose names are not specified, but whose contributions fueled our nation’s seminal aeronautical innovations. Representation matters as a means of inspiration to all multicultural women. Bestowing this deserved honor upon these previously hidden figures highlights how women of color have always shaped—and will continue to shape—the world’s future.”