

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

“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.”

“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.”

“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,” **said Dan Dumbacher, Executive Director of AIAA.** “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.”

"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, Thurgood Marshall College Fund.**

“The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) wholeheartedly endorses the *Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act* to honor trailblazers Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden. The credit and recognition to these four brave and courageous STEM professionals who paved the way for women, especially women of color, is long overdue and we applaud this bipartisan effort to acknowledge these ‘Hidden Figures.’ Our research shows a strong correlation between women with role models and women with leadership goals to help drive excellence in STEM by achieving equity and full participation of women in all disciplines and across all employment sectors,” **said Janet Bandows Koster, Executive Director and CEO of AWIS.**

“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."

"The American Physical Society is very pleased to endorse the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act. Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Dr. Christine Darden are all highly deserving of this important honor," **said Roger Falcone, President of the American Physical Society.** "These extraordinary women were instrumental to NASA's success during the Space Race, and we are delighted to see that their work is receiving this special recognition by Congress. Their legacies will serve to inspire future generations of students, importantly including women and underrepresented minorities, to pursue careers in STEM fields."

"Their dedication to their scientific work and our nation not only challenged the social barriers of their time, but also paved the way for other women and persons of color to pursue a career in science where these communities are woefully under-represented," **said Christine W. McEntee, CEO and Executive Director of the American Geophysical Union.** "While generations to come will continue to benefit from their advances in science whether they are aware of these extraordinary women or not, this bill helps to immortalize their story as an important part of our nation's history."

"The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is thrilled to see support for 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," **said Karen Horting, Executive Director & CEO of Society of Women Engineers.**

"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."

"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."

"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," **said Michael Pearson, Executive Director of Mathematical Association of America.** "These STEM professionals stand as role

models for our own time, demonstrating the potential and talent represented among all members of our diverse society.”

“It is important to honor the African American women mathematicians who contributed decisively to our national prowess in the crucial early years of spaceflight development and, 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.**