

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6014

A RESOLUTION commemorating the life and accomplishments
of Kansan George Washington Carver.

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver was born around the start of the Civil War, in Diamond, Missouri, the son of slaves; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver lived with the Moses and Susan Carver family who had given freedom to Carver and his mother; and

WHEREAS, In order to continue his education, thirteen-year old George moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, without the support of family or friends. He supported himself while working as a cook, laundry worker and railroad construction worker where he developed a fascination with the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Carver next lived in Olathe with the Seymour family where he attended school and worked in a barbershop and the Seymour family laundry business; and

WHEREAS, Carver moved with the Seymour family to Minneapolis and graduated from high school there in 1885; and

WHEREAS, After graduation Carver homesteaded in Ness County, where his interest in plants caused friends to call him the "Plant Doctor"; and

WHEREAS, In 1888, Carver attended Simpson College and eventually the State Agricultural College in Ames, Iowa, and graduated in 1894; and

WHEREAS, Carver became the first African-American on the faculty at Iowa State University in the botany department while earning his master's degree in 1896; and

WHEREAS, Carver accepted the offer of Booker T. Washington to become the head of the agriculture department at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Carver is well known not only for his teaching but his extensive work in helping poor southern farmers, plant research, restoration of mineral content of soil, crop diversification techniques, and inventing new uses for existing crops; and

WHEREAS, Carver is famous for inventing over 300 by-products from peanuts and sweet potatoes which the commercial possibilities virtually changed the economy of the south; and

WHEREAS, Carver turned down numerous lucrative offers to leave Tuskegee, never accepted a raise and donated almost all of his life savings to the Carver Research Foundation at Tuskegee Institute; and

WHEREAS, Carver published articles in over 40 publications and received numerous awards, including the Spingarn Medal, Roosevelt Medal, Thomas A. Edison Foundation Award and Hall of Fame for Great Americans Award; and

WHEREAS, The Ottawa County Historical Society has established and maintains an outstanding display honoring George Washington Carver and commemorating the time that he lived in Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, George Washington Carver was one of this country's greatest scientists and educators and made significant contributions throughout his career in agriculture: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we commemorate the life and accomplishments of George Washington Carver who spent many critical, formative years in the State of Kansas; and

Be it further resolved: That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to William N. Jackson, Superintendent of the George Washington Carver National Monument.

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.