



Democratic National Committee

Proposed Resolutions

For consideration by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010

- # Synopsis of Resolution – See Resolution for Sponsors
- 1 Resolution on the Economy and Job Creation
- 2 Resolution on Health Insurance Reform
- 3 Resolution on Wall Street Reform
- 4 Resolution on Elena Kagan’s Confirmation as the Next United States Supreme Court Justice
- 5 Resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- 6 Resolution on Gulf Oil Spill and Energy and Climate Change Legislation
- 7 Resolution on the Importance of Social Security
- 8 Resolution Honoring the 45th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act
- 9 Resolution Honoring the 90th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment
- 10 Resolution Commending the Democratic Congress and the Obama-Biden Administration for their Work on Behalf of America’s Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Families
- 11 Resolution Honoring David Obey
- 12 Resolution Urging the Sale of U.S. Treasury Bonds
- 13 Resolution Urging the Fiscal Deficit Commission to not Unfairly Target the Critical Benefits Provided by Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid
- 14 Resolution in Support of Waived Postage to Return Public Election Vote-by-Mail Ballots
- 15 Resolution Commemorating the Life and Service of Senator Robert Byrd
- 16 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Dorothy Height
- 17 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of John Murtha
- 18 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Benjamin Hooks

- 19 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Susan Burgess
- 20 Resolution Honoring the Life of Edward Campbell
- 21 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Walter Shorenstein
- 22 Resolution Honoring the Life of Midge Costanza
- 23 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Stephen Rivers
- 24 Resolution Commemorating the Life of Wilma Mankiller
- 25 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Frankie Drayton Thomas
- 26 Resolution Honoring the Life of Fannie Tillman
- 27 Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of William Miranda Marin

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution on the Economy and Job Creation

WHEREAS, when President Obama took office, the country was in the midst of the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930's; and

WHEREAS, at the time the President took office, the American economy was losing an average of 750,000 jobs per month, the American Gross Domestic Product was shrinking at a rate of 6%, and the American middle class was contracting at alarming rates; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and Congressional Democrats made the tough decisions and took the bold actions necessary to bring the American economy back from the brink and prevent a second Great Depression, including by fighting to enact historic legislation such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, the bold measures enacted by the President through the Recovery Act and other recovery-focused legislation ranged from tax cuts to infrastructure investments to hiring incentives to lending initiatives; and

WHEREAS, those measures have saved or created millions of jobs, have put millions of dollars in the pockets of the vast majority of working families, and have supported infrastructure projects and other business-creating projects across the country; and

WHEREAS, the vast improvement of the American economy, including GDP growth, six straight months of private sector job growth, and total job growth of nearly 600,000 jobs already this year, can be largely attributed to the Recovery Act and other Democratic legislation; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.5 million jobs across America and a significant proportion of GDP growth can be directly attributed to the Recovery Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that although the Democratic National Committee recognizes that there is still much work to be done to secure economic recovery and ensure that every American who wants a job can get a job, the actions taken by the President and Democrats in Congress helped to avert an even greater economic disaster and has gotten the American economy back on track; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee offer its appreciation and gratitude to President Obama and Congressional Democrats for the vision, courage and leadership they have demonstrated in their efforts to turn our economy around and put America on a path to economic recovery.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution on Health Insurance Reform

WHEREAS, the American health insurance system failed to provide adequate coverage or care for more than 31 million Americans, failed to provide coverage affordably for millions more, and threatened America's fiscal health; and

WHEREAS, after an exhaustive year of debate and a herculean effort by President Obama and Democrats in Congress addressed those problems through the passage of the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act closes the gaps in the American health care system and ensures that every American is able to access the care they need at a price they can afford; and

WHEREAS, beginning this year the Affordable Care Act will reduce costs for American families and businesses by providing tax credits for small businesses to help them cover the costs of health insurance for their employees, providing rebates to eligible seniors to help them purchase prescription medications that fall within the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage gap, creating a temporary high-risk pool to provide affordable insurance choices to adults who have been denied coverage as a result of pre-existing conditions, and requiring insurers to eliminate co-payments and deductibles for all kinds of preventive care; and

WHEREAS, this year the Affordable Care Act will end the worst practices of the insurance industry and expand coverage by guaranteeing that no child is denied insurance on the basis of a preexisting condition and empowering young people to remain on their parents' insurance through age 26 while they look for a job or plan their futures; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act will continue to reduce costs and expand coverage in the coming years by guaranteeing that no American of any age is denied insurance on the basis of a preexisting condition, that no American loses their insurance when they become sick, and that all Americans have access to affordable insurance options; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act empowers Americans with greater control over their health care decisions and greater security in the knowledge that if they become unemployed, change jobs, or start a new business, they will still have access to quality, affordable insurance options; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act strengthens consumer protections and reins in insurance companies by cracking down on insurance companies to ensure that Americans' premiums are spent on medical services and that premiums cannot be arbitrarily or unreasonably raised without justification; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act extends the solvency of Medicare, closes the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage gap, improves Medicare benefits, and provides free Medicare coverage of preventative care for seniors; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act will improve our nation's fiscal health by reducing the deficit by more than \$1 trillion over the next twenty years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee applaud President Obama and Democrats in Congress on their historic efforts to pass health insurance reform in the face of united opposition from Republicans who stood with insurance companies against reform, commend President Obama and Democrats in Congress on the passage of the Affordable Care Act without a single Republican vote, and declare that legislation to be an historic victory for all Americans, who will now have the security of knowing that they don't risk losing the American Dream if they get sick or are in an accident.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution on Wall Street Reform

WHEREAS, in September 2008, the largest financial crisis since the Great Depression crippled the American economy and caused untold hardship for hard-working families and Main Street businesses across the country; and

WHEREAS, that financial crisis resulted in large part from lax regulation of the financial industry and insufficient oversight of Wall Street by Republicans; and

WHEREAS, upon taking office President Obama and Democrats in Congress acted swiftly to prevent future economic crises and provide greater economic security for American families and small businesses by increasing accountability on Wall Street; and

WHEREAS, the Wall Street reform legislation signed by the President and enacted on July 21, 2010 includes new tough new regulations and new consumer protections; and

WHEREAS, those regulations curtail the riskiest trading practices of Wall Street firms and ensure financial transactions are conducted with unprecedented oversight and transparency; and

WHEREAS, those regulations ensure that shareholders have a larger role in decisions regarding CEO and executive pay, so that they can reward success and help to change incentive structures that led to excessive risk-taking; and

WHEREAS, those regulations guarantee that the American taxpayers will never again be left holding the bag for Wall Street's mistakes, that taxpayer-financed bailouts are a thing of the past, and that no financial firm ever again becomes "too big to fail"; and

WHEREAS, those regulations protect Americans from the worst abuses of big banks and credit card companies, ensure Americans have all the information to make the right financial choices for their families, and create an independent agency with the singular job of defending American consumers against predatory practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee congratulate President Obama and Democrats in Congress for enacting comprehensive Wall Street reform that empowers consumers and strengthens the American economy as a whole and condemn Republican calls to repeal this vital legislation and deprive Americans of the historic protections and reforms contained therein.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution on Elena Kagan's Confirmation as the Next United States Supreme Court Justice

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2010, President Obama announced his nomination of Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan has distinguished herself as an incredible legal mind and an unwavering public servant, and scholars and elected officials on both sides of the aisle agree that Solicitor General Kagan is one of the greatest legal minds of her generation; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan has a sterling reputation for her service as Solicitor General, Dean of Harvard Law School, Associate Counsel and Deputy Assistant to President Clinton, and clerk for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan has shown she is a trailblazer as the first woman Dean of Harvard Law School and the first woman Solicitor General; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan has given a great deal of thought to legal issues which profoundly affect Americans' everyday lives, including freedom of speech and government policy making, and understands how the law affects ordinary Americans; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan has demonstrated a natural talent for bringing people of diverse beliefs together, and has earned plaudits from Democrats and Republicans alike for her fair-minded approach to the law and her insistence that all sides be given a fair hearing before the law; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan inspires bipartisan confidence and garnered bipartisan support in her Senate confirmation vote; and

WHEREAS, Elena Kagan comes from a family that valued service to others, a value she has maintained throughout her career as she has worked to use her legal knowledge to help those around her; and

WHEREAS, the Senate recognized Elena Kagan's outstanding qualifications and her potential as a Supreme Court Justice and confirmed her nomination to that position on August 5, 2010;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee offers its support for Elena Kagan in her role as the newest Supreme Court Justice and its praise to President Obama for his continued leadership and vision in appointing strong individuals to serve across the federal government.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia

Resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, America is a nation of immigrants and has benefited from a steady stream of hardworking and talented immigrants that have made this country an engine of the global economy and a beacon of hope around the world; and

WHEREAS, America is also a nation of laws, according to which the federal government has the responsibility to protect our borders and regulate immigration; and

WHEREAS, our current immigration system does not work to the benefit of our nation's safety or our economy and fails to uphold our highest values;

WHEREAS, commonsense comprehensive immigration reform is required to secure our borders, guarantee a level playing field for American workers, and continue the tradition of innovation by immigrants who have brought new ideas and new prosperity to the American economy; and

WHEREAS, such reform is urgently necessary given the fact that there are 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States, a situation Americans of both parties agree is unsustainable; and

WHEREAS, we cannot deport all undocumented workers, but they must be required to admit they broke the law, pay taxes and a penalty, learn English and get right with the law before they can get in line to earn citizenship;

WHEREAS, comprehensive immigration reform must be based on the principles of responsibility and accountability from the American government, American businesses, and immigrants who are living illegally in the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and Democrats in Congress are reaching across party lines to try and shape a comprehensive federal solution to America's immigration challenges based on those principles; and

WHEREAS, patchwork state laws that attempt to fill the gap and alleviate Americans' frustration with the current unworkable immigration system, such as the wrong-headed immigration law in Arizona, threaten to undermine Americans' basic notion of fairness, place an unnecessary wedge between communities and the police who are supposed to keep them safe, and take America in the wrong direction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee endorses comprehensive federal immigration reform based on principles of accountability and responsibility – responsibility from the federal government for securing our national borders; responsibility from companies that break the law by hiring undocumented workers, a practice that is known to undermine American workers and exploit illegal immigrants; and responsibility from immigrants who are living illegally in the United States.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia

Resolution on the Gulf Oil Spill and Energy and Climate Change Legislation

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, a blowout preventer on the BP-licensed Transocean drilling rig Deepwater Horizon, located in the Gulf of Mexico, failed to activate, causing an explosion and fire that killed eleven people and injured seventeen; and

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon well was subsequently discovered to be leaking millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf; and

WHEREAS, President Obama declared that leak to be “a massive and potentially unprecedented environmental disaster,” and ordered the full resources of the federal government to be directed toward containing and cleaning up the oil spill; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, tens of thousands of personnel, thousands of ships and other vessels, and countless other federal resources were subsequently authorized to participate in the largest-ever environmental cleanup in America; and

WHEREAS, federal officials under the President’s direction and working with BP were able to contain the oil spill and then block the flow of oil from the well; and

WHEREAS, despite the extensive efforts of the federal government and others, which resulted in the burning, skimming, or collection of millions of gallons of oil from the Gulf, because of the level of destruction stemming from the spill, it has directly affected the lives and livelihoods of residents of Gulf Coast states, has resulted in immeasurable losses in Gulf Coast tourism, fishing, and other industries, and has threatened the viability and sustainability of Gulf coastlines; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and his Administration have taken action to hold BP accountable for those losses, including by securing an agreement from BP to establish a \$20 billion fund to ensure full compensation is paid to individuals and families affected by the spill as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is critical not only that Gulf Coast residents be compensated for their losses but also that action is taken to prevent future disasters from undermining the American economy and detracting from America’s environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy in the Gulf has lent a renewed sense of urgency to efforts by President Obama and Democrats in Congress to free America from outdated and potentially dangerous 20th century energy sources by taking aggressive steps to end America’s reliance on fossil fuels and boost the development and production of green energy alternatives; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and Democrats in Congress have stated their intention to help America meet its energy needs by pursuing a comprehensive energy policy – one that addresses our country’s short-term needs and longer-term renewable energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the President has already taken action to that end to boost the clean energy industry by making the largest-ever investment in basic research, offering financial support for innovative green businesses, and establishing tough new national fuel standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee offers its unwavering support for Gulf Coast residents and business owners, thanks President Obama for his unfailing leadership on this issue, and stands behind the efforts of the President and Democrats in Congress to pursue a comprehensive energy policy that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and begins to reverse the effects of global climate change.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Maria Cardone, National Democratic Seniors Coordinating Council/Maryland
Steve Regenstreif, National Democratic Seniors Coordination Council/
District of Columbia
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution on the Importance of Social Security

WHEREAS, prior to the creation of Social Security half of all elderly Americans lived in a state of poverty, a heartrending situation remedied by the passage of President Franklin Roosevelt's Social Security Act; and

WHEREAS, President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935, 75 years ago this year; and

WHEREAS, Social Security has since provided senior citizens with a guaranteed source of income independent of the fluctuations of the market, enabling older Americans to live out their golden years with peace of mind; and

WHEREAS, approximately 75 million working Americans – half the workforce – lack access to retirement plans through their employers and thus will likely depend on Social Security for a stable source of future retirement income; and

WHEREAS, Social Security is the cornerstone of America's commitment to our seniors and the foundation of a dignified retirement for millions of American seniors; and

WHEREAS, Social Security also provides the foundation for a dignified life for Americans with disabilities who are prevented from working by those disabilities, and serves as a lifeline for widows, widowers, and their children, and is an expression of our national commitment to those individuals; and

WHEREAS, the President believes that America should continue to honor our commitment to those Americans and is dedicated to preserving Social Security and undertaking all possible bipartisan efforts to protect Social Security as a reliable source of income for older Americans, Americans with disabilities, and some families; and

WHEREAS, the President opposes privatization and other backwards-looking and misguided policies that threaten to undermine Social Security and would put seniors and other Americans at risk by allowing Americans' financial security to be dependent on the fluctuation of the financial markets; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has routinely rejected Republicans' proposals that would, through privatization or other means, dismantle Social Security; and

WHEREAS, the President will continue to reject Republican proposals that reward Wall Street while putting Americans' lives and livelihoods in the hands of those who caused the current recession; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee recognize Social Security to be a vital program for American seniors and our nation, oppose Republican candidates who have made the privatization of Social Security a platform of their campaign, support the President and other Democratic leaders in their efforts to oppose Republican attempts at privatization, and will be unrelenting in our efforts to protect and strengthen Social Security in order that we may ensure that all Americans, not just the privileged few, are able to live and retire with dignity.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/ District of Columbia
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution Honoring the 45th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is widely regarded as the most successful and impactful civil rights legislation in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and other minorities historically were prevented from exercising their constitutional rights through the systematic discriminatory and arbitrary use of poll taxes, literacy tests, and so-called "moral character" examinations; and

WHEREAS, despite the guarantees of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, certain states and electoral districts continued to defy federal law by denying minorities the right to vote, leaving them without a voice to participate in the political process and prohibiting minorities from electing representatives of their choice even in election districts where racial or language minorities constituted a majority of the voting-age population; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Goodman, James Earl Chaney, and Michael H. Schwerner were brutally murdered by Ku Klux Klan members in the State of Mississippi during the *Freedom Summer* campaign of 1964 because of their efforts to register African Americans to vote; and

WHEREAS, African Americans were excluded from voting in the Democratic primary in the State of Mississippi and Fannie Lou Hamer and other civil rights activists formed the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) in an effort to replace Mississippi's all-white delegation to the 1964 Democratic National Convention; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965, uniformed law enforcement officers savagely beat peaceful civil rights marchers as they attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and images of that brutality were broadcast across the globe, shocking our nation's conscience and persuading Congress and President Lyndon Johnson to pass voting rights legislation; and

WHEREAS, the registration of white voters historically was approximately fifty percentage points higher than minority registration, and today the registration gap between minority and white voters has narrowed considerably; and

WHEREAS, election jurisdictions that once erected harsh barriers to voter registration and maintained a system of pervasive and unconstitutional racial discrimination now elect minority candidates, with African Americans comprising nearly a third of the State of Georgia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives in recent Congresses; and

WHEREAS, the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act have removed barriers to voting for thousands of Latino, Hispanic, and Asian American citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000 presidential election, the State of Florida knowingly employed a flawed process, which was purportedly intended to purge voters with a felony conviction, but was known to yield a substantial proportion of false positives, and 88% of the voters removed from the rolls under that process reportedly were African American even though African Americans accounted for only 11% of all Florida voters, and that as a result of the knowing use of this flawed and discriminatory process tens of thousands of legitimate minority voters were knowingly and unconstitutionally disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 preclearance of the Voting Rights Act has successfully protected minority voters from voting changes that have the intent or effect of discriminating against them, with the Department of Justice objecting to and preventing the administration of more than 700 such voting changes since 1982; and

WHEREAS, the administration of Section 5 demonstrates the ongoing need for the protections of the Voting Rights Act, as evidenced by the fact that more Section 5 objections were lodged between 1982 and 2004 than between 1965 and 1982; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Congress recognized the continuing importance of the Voting Rights Act, held extensive hearings that produced evidence of the many obstacles minority voters continue to face, and thus passed the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act Of 2006, with a unanimous vote in the U.S. Senate and an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 390-33 in the U.S. House of Representatives, reauthorizing the VRA for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Voting Right Act's expansion of the franchise, we have witnessed the historic election of President Barack Obama, the first African American president of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the aim of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act – to expand access for members of racial and language minority groups to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice – was realized when a substantial majority of minorities voted for President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder*, a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, but nonetheless expressed doubt about the continued necessity of Section 5 preclearance in the future; and

WHEREAS, despite the monumental achievements of the Voting Rights Act, some election districts continue to advocate for and enact voting practices and procedures that have the intent or effect of discriminating against racial and language minorities, such as mass, over-inclusive and insufficiently defined voter purging programs, and citizenship verification and photo identification laws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee recognizes the 45th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by celebrating the legislation's unmatched achievement in expanding voting rights and by emphasizing the continuing need for the critical protections the Act affords; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee advocates for strong enforcement of the Voting Rights Act's provisions and will continue to advance and promote an open and fair system of elections for all citizens.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
Linda Chavez Thompson, DNC Vice Chair/Texas
Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC Vice Chair/Florida
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
Jane Stetson, DNC National Finance Chair/ Vermont
Mame Reiley, Virginia

Resolution Honoring the 90th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history, the right to vote has always been the cornerstone of our democracy and a major way we effectuate political change, yet women were disenfranchised for more than one hundred and thirty years after the Constitution was enacted; and

WHEREAS, courageous Americans have struggled to earn the right to exercise the full franchise of citizenship at the ballot box, and women are among those who fought for the right to fully participate in American democracy; and

WHEREAS, women sought to achieve equal voting rights under the law in the courts and in state legislatures, pleading the case for democratic rights without regard to gender throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; and

WHEREAS, in 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others active in the abolition movement called the first women's rights convention in the U.S. in Seneca Falls, New York, which resulted in a Declaration of Sentiments declaring that "all men and women are created equal" and demanded access to the "sacred right to the elective franchise"; and

WHEREAS, in 1851, Sojourner Truth, a former slave and heralded leader of the abolitionist cause, sought to unite all women in their fight for the right to vote and gender equality, famously asking, "Ain't I a Woman?"; and

WHEREAS, in 1900, in the face of staunch opposition and before women across the country were able to vote, Elizabeth Cohen of Utah became the first female delegate to a Democratic National Convention; and

WHEREAS, met with forceful resistance over the role of women in society, female suffrage activists faced arrest and violence in their attempt to achieve equality, suffered insult and injury as they picketed lawmakers, marched the streets, undertook hunger strikes and were arrested for their non-violent activism, and were brutalized on "The Night of Terror" in Occoquan Workhouse where prison guards with clubs went on a rampage, beating, dragging, and choking thirty-three women who had been jailed for suffrage activism; and

WHEREAS, these suffrage activists determined that only a federal Constitutional solution could fully and finally secure women's voting rights and through their unfailing courage and unfaltering efforts, they secured Congressional support for a Constitutional Amendment; and

WHEREAS, suffrage activists and other activists then secured ratification from the required number of states for that Amendment, which would become the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States upon its ratification on August 18, 1920; and

WHEREAS, the 19th Amendment specifies that “the right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex;” and

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Committee – embracing the participation of all genders, ethnicities, and backgrounds in the electoral process and supports civil rights and equal rights for all Americans – has advocated for full and robust participation by women in electoral politics since the 19th Amendment was ratified; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Chisholm, a New York Democrat, became the first African-American woman elected to serve in Congress in 1968, eventually running for president in 1972, and continued her service in the House of Representatives until 1982; and

WHEREAS, Jean Westwood was named by presidential nominee George McGovern to chair the Democratic National Committee in 1972, becoming the first woman to hold that position in a major political party; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party amended its charter to require equal numbers of men and women delegates to its nominating convention in 1980, the first time this was required for a national party; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has continued to support the candidacies of women at every level of government across the country and 69% of female state legislators across the country are Democrats, 13 of 17 women serving in the United States Senate are Democrats, and 56 of 73 women serving in the United States House of Representatives are Democrats; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the broad support that the Democratic Party lends to gender equality and other issues important to women, 56% of women voters cast a ballot for President Obama in 2008; and

WHEREAS, President Obama, demonstrating the Party’s adherence to the principle that female voices must be represented at the highest level of government, has already named at least seven women to fill cabinet positions, and women hold numerous other important roles in the current administration; and

WHEREAS, understanding that families today are more dependent on women’s earnings than ever before and acknowledging the inherent unfairness in wage disparity between women and men, the first major legislation passed by Congress signed by President Obama was the Lilly Ledbetter Act, restoring workers’ rights to challenge illegal wage discrimination in the federal courts; and

WHEREAS, due to the sacrifices made by women to gain the right to vote and the work that continues today, in 2008 registered female voters outnumbered male voters by 78.1 million to 68.2 million.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee celebrate the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, recognize the achievements of women voters and elected officials, and call upon all its members and all Americans to continue to expand opportunities for all citizens to become involved in the workings of government and elections as we continue to strive to renew with each generation the promise of a free and democratic nation.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Christine Pelosi, California
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution Commending the Democratic Congress and the Obama-Biden Administration for their Work on Behalf of America's Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Families

WHEREAS, Democrats salute America's servicemembers who fight on behalf of our freedom, our values, our safety and security; their sacrifice is a source of pride for our nation; their service is a source of inspiration to us all and we owe our deepest debt of gratitude to those who give their lives for our country; and we must do everything in our power to care for those who return safely home, which is why the Democratic Congress and the Obama-Biden Administration have provided unprecedented resources to support our spouses, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends and neighbors who have answered the call to service; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party's commitment to military families was manifest from the start of the Obama-Biden administration and 111th Congress with passage of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act that provided jobs, tax cuts, and quality-of-life improvements for our troops and veterans – including giving businesses tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans and providing disabled veterans a payment of \$250, funding additional child care centers and warrior transition centers for wounded warriors returning from combat. Investments included: \$4.2 billion to invest in energy efficient projects and to repair and modernize a variety of Department of Defense facilities; \$1.3 billion for rebuild and renovate our aging military hospitals and ambulatory care centers; \$555 million for assistance to military homeowners, including wounded warriors and surviving spouses; \$335 million to build new barracks and dormitories for our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen; \$240 million for new child development centers on military bases across the country; \$100 million for warrior transition complexes to provide services to wounded warriors returning from combat and their families; \$100 million for new construction of operations and training facilities to support National Guard units across the country; a tax credit to businesses for hiring unemployed veterans; a payment of \$250 to all disabled veterans receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs; \$1 billion for non-recurring maintenance, including energy efficiency projects, to address deficiencies and avoid serious maintenance problems at the 153 VA hospitals across the country; \$150 million for an increase in VA claims processing staff, in order to address the large backlog in processing veterans' claims; \$50 million to improve the automation of the processing of veterans' benefits, to get benefits out sooner and more accurately; and, \$150 million for state grants for the construction of additional extended care facilities for veterans; and

WHEREAS, Members of Congress, Obama-Biden Administration officials, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden have placed special emphasis on the well-being of military children because a parent's military service leaves its mark on an entire younger generation of military family members in a way that very little else in life can. There are 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 who have at least one parent serving in the military, and nearly 1 million have endured multiple deployments by one or both parents – sometimes at the same time. Their parents are not just absent though, these children have had to deal with the weighty reality that their parents are putting their lives on the line and may not return home at all. Unasked, these children make tremendous sacrifices of their own right for our country, and have received increased resources to ease their burdens; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Congress has passed and the President has signed proposals crafted in consultation with Veterans Service Organizations across America that include implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill as well as legislation addressing caregivers, women veterans, rural veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Obama-Biden Administration VA has announced an historic effort to combat post traumatic stress syndrome and invest in suicide prevention to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) get easier access to the treatment and benefits they need and have earned and this long overdue change marks a critical step forward for the health and well-being of those who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all of our nation's wars; and

WHEREAS, Democrats renew our commitment to fight for veterans issues, including efforts to reduce homelessness among veterans, modernize the VA claims processing system, streamline and simplify the post-9/11 GI Bill, secure more jobs for our nation's heroes, eliminate combat stress stigma, and support better health care for female veterans including resources to those coping with PTSD and military sexual trauma (MST);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) will continue to further strengthen outreach to our troops and families who have given so much in defense of our country and our efforts will focus around educating the public on Democratic principles regarding our military forces, their families, and veterans; these principles include proper training and equipment for our troops as they head to battle; a budget that reflects America's responsibilities to our veterans by providing health care options and assistance to military families; support and assistance for veterans and their families when they return home from fighting abroad; and a continued support for the values and dignity that come with a military career.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Jason Rae, Wisconsin
Melissa Schroeder, Wisconsin
Rollie Hicks, Wisconsin
Martha Love, Wisconsin
Mike Tate, Wisconsin
Paula Zellner, Wisconsin

Resolution Honoring Congressman David Obey of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, Dave Obey was first elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Dave Obey was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1969; and

WHEREAS, upon taking office in 1969, Dave Obey became the youngest member of Congress at the time at the age of 30; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Obey has been continually re-elected to represent Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District since 1970; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Obey has served the 7th Congressional District and Wisconsin with distinction for over 41 years; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Obey has always fought to ensure access to health care and affordable education for all people; and

WHEREAS, in May 2010, Congressman Obey announced his retirement from the United States House of Representatives after a long and distinguished career as a public servant;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic National Committee honor Congressman David Obey for his lifetime of public service and extend its deep appreciation to him for always standing up for the people of Wisconsin and this great nation.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: William Owen, Tennessee

Resolution Urging the Sale of U.S. Treasury Bonds

WHEREAS, the United States of America continues to have a stronger economy than any other country in the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America continues to have a strong and vibrant workforce; and

WHEREAS, despite the lingering effects of the "Great Recession," the U.S. economy is improving; and

WHEREAS, the National Debt has surfaced as a political issue; and

WHEREAS, one of the main reasons for increases in the National Debt is the need to finance war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, over 50% of newly issued U.S. Treasury Bonds are purchased by foreign individuals and entities; and

WHEREAS, foreign ownership of U.S. debt could potentially influence U.S. foreign and domestic policy; and

WHEREAS, in previous wars U.S. citizens have been urged to purchase "War Bonds"; and

WHEREAS, President Franklin Roosevelt's words spoken during the Great Depression remain true today--"We have nothing to fear, but fear itself;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) express our faith in the future economic strength of the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the DNC is hereby authorized to appoint a committee of DNC Members and others to encourage our fellow citizens to purchase U.S. Treasury Bonds as a means of demonstrating our continued faith in the economy of the United States.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Robert Rankin, California

Resolution Urging the Fiscal Deficit Commission to Not Unfairly Target the Critical Benefits Provided by Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid

WHEREAS, President Obama, by Executive Order in February 2010, created the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (Commission) and the Executive Order directs the commission to reduce the annual deficits to 3% of the national economy by 2015; and

WHEREAS, we fully support the President on the critical need to reduce the nation's budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), most of the projected budget deficit over the next ten years results from President Bush's tax cuts for the rich, the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, health care and the effects of the worst recession since the Great depression; and

WHEREAS, Social Security and Medicare are two of the most successful Federal Programs in existence and Social Security, which has helped generations of Americans retire with dignity has a \$2.5 trillion surplus and has never contributed to the federal deficit, while Medicare has helped reduce senior poverty by two-thirds since its inception in 1965;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee recommend that the Commission not target Social Security and Medicare in their efforts to reduce the deficit as these programs are successful.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Chris Stampolis, California
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Patti Higgins, Chair, Alaska
 Alexandra Gallardo Rooker, Vice Chair, California
 Dan Slater, Vice Chair, Colorado
 Jeanne Buell, Vice Chair, Idaho
 Sharon Smith, Vice Chair, Washington
 Fred DuVal, Arizona
 Judy Kennedy, Arizona
 Becca Doten, California
 Robert "Big Red" Rankin, California
 Jean Lemire Dahlman, Montana
 Michael Radway, Oregon
 Patrice Arent, Utah
 Sharon Mast, Washington
 Pat Hobbs, National Federation of Democratic Women/California

Resolution in Support of Waived Postage to Return Public Election Vote-by-Mail Ballots

WHEREAS, the right to vote in public elections at no direct cost to any registered voter is a fundamental civil right; and

WHEREAS, millions of registered voters across the US receive ballots each election in compliance with their jurisdiction's certified vote-by-mail or absentee voting processes; and

WHEREAS, most vote-by-mail or absentee voters are required to calculate and affix postage to the official ballot return envelope before submitting their votes to be counted, leading to many ballots not being submitted timely or being submitted later than they otherwise would be cast; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee ask the U.S. Postal Service to work in partnership with Congress and the White House to develop a means such as a national ballot return envelope postage "frank" so voters qualified to cast vote-by-mail ballots may submit their sealed secret ballots through the Post Office at no direct postage cost to voters or to the receiving local election agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DNC will advocate for this policy and request regular updates on its development and implementation.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the Democratic National Committee meetings August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Governor Tim Kaine, DNC Chairman/Virginia
Belinda Biafore, Chair/West Virginia
Pat Maroney, Vice Chair/West Virginia
Marie Prezioso, West Virginia
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution Commemorating the Life and Service of Senator Robert C. Byrd

WHEREAS, his humble beginnings as a West Virginia butcher evolved into a career of public service spanning more than sixty years, including terms in the West Virginia House of Delegates and state Senate as well as 57 years in the U.S. Congress, which made him the longest-serving Member of Congress in history; and

WHEREAS, he was known to be one of the foremost scholars of the proceedings of the U.S. Senate and a protector of its rules, and authored a four volume history of the institution; and

WHEREAS, he held more leadership positions in his career in the Senate than any other Senator, including serving as the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and twice holding the position of Majority Leader; and

WHEREAS, he avidly defended the U.S. Constitution, always carrying a copy in his left shirt pocket, and fought efforts to amend it; and

WHEREAS, he brought numerous job-supporting entities to West Virginia, including an FBI fingerprint center in Clarksburg; Treasury and IRS offices in Parkersburg; a Fish and Wildlife Service training center in Sheperdstown; a federal prison in Beckley; a NASA research center in Wheeling; a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives office in Martinsburg; and U.S. Navy and Coast Guard offices; and

WHEREAS, he was revered by his colleagues in the U.S. Senate, including the late Senator Ted Kennedy who said that he “personifies what our Founding Fathers were thinking about when they were thinking about a United States Senate,” and Republican Senator Bob Dole who stated that “he has set a standard as a Senator, as a legislative leader, and as a statesman that will stand among the best as long as there is a Senate;” and

WHEREAS, West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller said that “West Virginia has lost one of its greatest sons, the United States Senate has lost one of its most notable statesman, and I have lost my admired colleague and treasured friend,” and West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin commended his service to West Virginia, declaring that when Senator Byrd “launched a career in public service some 60 plus years ago, our state was a blank canvass – untouched by the colors

of the modern ways of life...Senator Byrd brought that blank canvass to life;" and

WHEREAS, his lifetime of service in the Senate was overshadowed only by his dedication to his beloved late wife Erma, his two daughters, six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee assert that the life and service of Senator Robert C. Byrd has furthered the progress of the Democratic Party, made stronger the State of West Virginia, and strengthened the fabric of this nation.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Dennis Archer, At-Large/Michigan
 Alexis Herman, At-Large/Virginia
 Gale Jones Carson, Tennessee
 Minyon Moore, At-Large/District of Columbia
 Virgie Rollins, National Federation of Democratic Women/Michigan

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Dorothy Height

WHEREAS, Dorothy Height was a founding matriarch of the American civil rights movement whose crusade for racial justice and gender equality spanned more than six decades; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Height worked on every major advancement in civil rights and justice for women and people of color dating back to the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Height was born on March 24, 1912, in Richmond, VA; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Height was accepted at Barnard College, but was not allowed to enroll because Barnard had already met its quota for African American students that year; and

WHEREAS, she immediately took her Barnard acceptance letter to New York University where she was admitted at once, graduating from New York University with a bachelor's degree in education in 1933 and her master's in educational psychology in 1935; and

WHEREAS, as a young social worker in her 20s, she helped New York City resolve the Harlem riots of 1935 and helped organize protests against lynching; and

WHEREAS, she went on to work for the desegregation of the armed forces and for access for all people to public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, from 1947 to 1956, Dorothy Height was president of Delta Sigma Theta, an international sorority of African American women; and

WHEREAS, as the only woman leader among the civil rights leadership, which included Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, S. Phillip Randolph, John Lewis and James Farmer, Dr. Height played a critical role in helping her colleagues put aside their factional differences and forge a united front; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Height was president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) for 40 years, where she worked to advance quality of life issues for African American women and their families; and

WHEREAS, as president of the NCNW during the most urgent years of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height instituted a variety of social programs in the Deep South; and

WHEREAS, in the mid-1960's she helped to create "Wednesdays in Mississippi," a program that flew interracial teams of Northern women to Mississippi to meet with black and white women there; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the NCNW organized the Black Family Reunion Celebration to underscore the traditional values and strength of African American families; and the Black Family Reunion Celebration will mark its 25th Anniversary this September; and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, Dr. Height served on the staff of the National Board of the YWCA, where she presided over the integration of its facilities nationwide in the 1940s and spearheaded their racial justice initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Height worked on a number of international human rights and humanitarian issues, including training and research, economic empowerment, and leadership development projects for women and organizations in Africa, the Caribbean and India; and

WHEREAS, with Gloria Steinem, Shirley Chisholm and Betty Freidan, she helped to found the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971; and

WHEREAS, over the decades she advised a number of American presidents on civil rights issues; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, Dorothy Height passed away at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., at the age of 98; and

WHEREAS, in a statement issued by the White House, President Barack Obama called Dr. Height "the godmother of the Civil Rights Movement and a hero to so many Americans...who devoted her life to those struggling for equality...witnessing every march and milestone along the way;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life and career of Dorothy Height.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: James Burn Jr., Chair, Pennsylvania
 Penny Gerber, Vice Chair, Pennsylvania
 Rena Baumgartner, Pennsylvania
 Ronald Donatucci, Pennsylvania
 William George, Pennsylvania
 Amanda Green Hawkins, At-Large/Pennsylvania
 Marcel Groen, Pennsylvania
 Sophie Masloff, Pennsylvania
 Gerald McEntee, At-Large/Pennsylvania
 Ian Murray, Pennsylvania
 Evelyn Richardson, Pennsylvania
 Ruth C. Rudy, National Federation of Democratic Women/Pennsylvania
 Marian Tasco, Pennsylvania

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of John Murtha

WHEREAS, John Murtha dedicated his life to serving his country both in the military and in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, John Murtha served in the U.S. Marines for 37 years, joining as a raw recruit in 1952, and retiring from the Marine Corps Reserve as a colonel in 1990; and

WHEREAS, he was awarded the American Spirit Honor Medal, the Bronze Star with Combat “V”, two Purple Hearts and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; and

WHEREAS, he served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1969 to 1974; and

WHEREAS, he was elected in 1974 to the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, he was the first Vietnam War combat veteran elected to Congress; and

WHEREAS, he brought tens of thousands of jobs to western Pennsylvania, pushing the region in a new direction by diversifying the economy by attracting health care, defense, medical research, tourism and high-tech jobs; and

WHEREAS, John Murtha fought for a patient’s bill of rights, prescription drug benefits, a higher minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, he protected Medicare, Social Security and benefits for veterans and miners; and

WHEREAS, as Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, John Murtha was respected for his first-hand knowledge of military and national security issues; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2010, John Murtha passed away at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland due to complications from surgery; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Joyce, his children Donna, John and Patrick, and his grandchildren Jack, Anne and Clayton;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of John Murtha and offer its condolences to his family.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
Dennis Archer, At-Large/Michigan
Alexis Herman, At-Large/Virginia
Gale Jones Carson, Tennessee
Minyon Moore, At-Large/District of Columbia
Virgie Rollins, National Federation of Democratic Women/Michigan

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Benjamin Hooks

WHEREAS, Benjamin Hooks was born in Memphis, TN, on January 31, 1925; and

WHEREAS, he studied at LeMoyne College in Memphis and Howard University in Washington, DC, before serving in the U.S. Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Army, he attended DePaul University in Chicago, IL, and graduated with a law degree in 1948; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Hooks practiced law in Tennessee and in 1956 became pastor at Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, and in 1964 he was named pastor at Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Detroit, MI; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Benjamin Hooks began the first African American to sit on the bench of a Tennessee state court when Gov. Frank Clement appointed him to fill a vacancy on the Shelby County criminal court; and

WHEREAS, in 1972 he became the first African American member of the Federal Communications Commission, where he championed minority ownership of television and radio stations; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Hooks was named executive director of the NAACP in 1977 and served in this position for 16 years; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the NAACP he successfully lobbied for the Martin Luther King, Jr., federal holiday and several civil rights, fair housing and voting rights bills; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the NAACP, Rev. Hooks continued preaching, taught at Fisk University in Nashville, TN, and served as president of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, in recognition of his long and committed service to our nation, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2010, Benjamin Hooks died at his home in Memphis at the age of 85;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor Benjamin Hooks for his lifelong dedication to civil rights and offer its condolences to his family.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: David Young, Chair, North Carolina
 Stella Adams, Vice Chair, North Carolina
 Jeanette Council, North Carolina
 Phillip Gilfus, North Carolina
 David Parker, North Carolina
 Ed Turlington, At-Large/North Carolina
 Everett Ward, North Carolina
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Gilda Cobb Hunter, South Carolina

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Susan Burgess

WHEREAS, Susan Burgess was born in Charleston, WV, and grew up in St. Albans, WV; and

WHEREAS, she received a bachelor's degree in health science from Florida International University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama-Birmingham; and

WHEREAS, Susan Burgess served on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education from 1990 until 1997, serving as chair from 1995 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, she was elected to the Charlotte City Council in 1999, serving as Mayor Pro Tem for six years; and

WHEREAS, she chaired the City Council Economic Development Committee and served on the Community Safety, Transportation, Environment and Government Affairs Committees; and

WHEREAS, she was the City Council representative to the Centralina Council of Government; and

WHEREAS, Susan Burgess served for six years as chairperson of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, she served as president of the North Carolina League of Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, she served for two years on the board of the National League of Cities; and

WHEREAS, she was president of Women in Municipal Government; and

WHEREAS, Susan Burgess served as chair of the National Democratic Municipal Officials Conference; and

WHEREAS, Susan Burgess served on the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 2006 to 2008 and she was currently serving as a state-elected member of the DNC; and

WHEREAS, she was on the Executive Committees of the North Carolina Democratic Party and the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party and in these roles was an enthusiastic advocate for holding Democratic Party meetings in Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2010, she passed away at her home in Charlotte after a battle with cancer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DNC honor her life and extend its condolences to her family.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Sue Dvorsky, Chair, Iowa
 Michael Kiernan, Vice Chair, Iowa
 Scott Brennan, Iowa
 Sandy Opstvedt, Iowa
 Linda Langston, National Democratic County Officials/Iowa
 Michael Fitzgerald, National Association of Democratic State Treasurers/Iowa
 Michael Gronstal, Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee/Iowa
 Jan Bauer, At-Large/Iowa
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution Honoring the Life of Edward Campbell

WHEREAS, Edward Campbell was born in Ft. Dodge, Iowa, and attended Sacred Heart School; and

WHEREAS, he served in the U.S. Army and graduated from the University of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Edward Campbell began his career with the Grinnell and Charles City Chambers of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in 1965 he joined the staff of Iowa Governor Harold E. Hughes as a special assistant, where he oversaw the establishment of community colleges in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, when Governor Hughes was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1968, Edward Campbell joined his Washington staff; and

WHEREAS, when Senator Hughes retired in 1974, Edward Campbell returned to Iowa to run John Culver's successful campaign to succeed Senator Hughes; and

WHEREAS, Edward Campbell managed Senator Culver's Iowa offices until he entered the private sector in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he was influential in the Iowa caucus campaigns of Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale and Richard Gephardt; and

WHEREAS, from 1977 to 1982, Edward Campbell served as Chair of the Iowa Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Edward Campbell mentored a generation of Iowa Democratic strategists and helped elevate the Iowa caucuses to their national prominence; and

WHEREAS, he was elected to the Iowa Democratic Party's Hall of Fame in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Edward Campbell passed away on May 6, 2010, at his home;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of Edward Campbell and express condolences to Bonnie Campbell, his wife of 35 years.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Andy Tobias, DNC Treasurer/Florida
 Jane Stetson, DNC National Finance Chair/Vermont
 Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
 Bob Mulholland, California
 Rosalind Wyman, California

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Walter H. Shorenstein

WHEREAS, Walter Shorenstein was born in Glen Cove, NY in 1915; and

WHEREAS, he left the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, after being honorably discharged from the Air Force as a major, Walter Shorenstein moved to San Francisco, where he worked as a commercial real estate broker with the firm Milton Meyer & Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1953 he was named a “Leader of Tomorrow” by Time Magazine and by 1960, Walter Shorenstein had become president and sole owner of Milton Meyer & Company, which was subsequently renamed Shorenstein Company; and

WHEREAS, Walter Shorenstein was inducted into the University of Southern California’s Real Estate Hall of Fame in 1997, and the Bay Area Council’s Business Hall of Fame in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Walter Shorenstein demonstrated his desire to build a better community and nation through his extensive philanthropic and political activities; and

WHEREAS, in 1967 he was selected by President Lyndon Johnson as an advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East; and

WHEREAS, during the Carter Administration, Walter Shorenstein was appointed to the Committee for the Preservation of the White House and served as president of the White House Preservation Fund, and was also a member of the official U.S. Delegation for the peace talks with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in July 1978; and

WHEREAS, during the Clinton Administration he served on the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National Service and the U.S. Commerce Department Industry Policy Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, he was a major supporter of hosting the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco and was named the California Democratic Party Man of the Year in 1985; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Walter Shorenstein and his wife Phyllis endowed the Joan Shorenstein Center on Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government in memory of their daughter Joan, an influential journalist and producer at CBS News who died of cancer; and

WHEREAS, he was a steadfast supporter of the Democratic Party and received the Democratic National Committee’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2010, Walter Shorenstein died at his home in San Francisco at the age of 95;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of Walter Shorenstein and extend its condolences to his son Douglas, his daughter Carole and his grandchildren.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Garry Shay, California
Rosalind Wynman, California
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia

Resolution Honoring the Life of Midge Costanza

WHEREAS, Margaret “Midge” Costanza was born on Nov. 28, 1932 in LeRoy, NY; and

WHEREAS, she did grassroots work for Averell Harriman’s campaign for governor in 1954 and managed Robert Kennedy’s 1964 campaign for Senate in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 she became the first woman elected to the Rochester City Council, winning by the largest margin in the city’s history; and

WHEREAS, Midge Costanza was the first prominent Democrat in New York to support Jimmy Carter’s bid for president in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Midge Costanza joined the Carter Administration as Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, becoming the first woman to serve as an Assistant to the President; and

WHEREAS, Midge Costanza was outspokenly committed to women’s issues, gay rights and social justice for minorities; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the White House, she moved to Los Angeles where she managed Shirley MacLaine’s “Higher Self” seminars; and

WHEREAS, in 1990 she moved to San Diego where she worked on several political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2003, Midge Costanza was a special assistant to Gov. Gray Davis, serving as a liaison to women’s groups and in 2005 she became a public affairs officer for the San Diego District Attorney’s Office; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 she founded the Midge Costanza Institute for the Study of Politics and Public Policy, affiliated with the women’s studies department at San Diego State University; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2010, Midge Costanza died after a long battle with cancer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of Midge Costanza and offer its condolences to her family.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
Debra Kozikowski, Vice Chair, Massachusetts
Bob Mulholland, California

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Stephen Rivers

WHEREAS, Stephen Rivers was born in Springfield, MA, on Feb. 17, 1955; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Cathedral High School and studied philosophy and theology at Fairfield University in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Rivers began his career working for the United Farm Workers Union, where he served as the New England Boycott organizer of the grape and lettuce boycotts; and

WHEREAS, he then moved to California to serve as an assistant to the late UFW president Cesar Chavez; and

WHEREAS, after leaving UFW, Stephen Rivers worked with the entertainment industry and corporate clients as well as on political, non-profit and international projects; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Rivers served as press secretary and chief aide to California Assemblyman Tom Hayden; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Rivers organized events for many prominent politicians and entertainers, including Bill Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Maria Shriver, Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu and Jane Fonda; and

WHEREAS, his work included marketing and publicity campaigns for films, corporate positioning and transactions; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Stephen Rivers joined Creative Artists Agency, where he organized the firm's government and charitable efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, he opened his own firm where he balanced his publicity work on films with efforts on behalf of the Magic Johnson Foundation, Rock the Vote and Seeds for Peace; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Stephen Rivers fought diligently for those who did not have an advocate; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2010, Stephen Rivers passed away after a courageous battle with metastatic prostate cancer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of Stephen Rivers and offer its condolences to his family.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Donna Brazile, DNC Vice Chair/District of Columbia
Alice Germond, DNC Secretary/West Virginia
Cecilia Fire Thunder, At-Large/South Dakota

Resolution Commemorating the Life of Wilma Mankiller

WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was born on November 18, 1945 in Tahlequah, OK; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation in modern times; and

WHEREAS, she served as principal chief of the Cherokees from 1985 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, her leadership on social and financial issues is credited with strengthening and inspiring the Cherokee Nation; and

WHEREAS, as chief, Wilma Mankiller tripled her tribe's enrollment, doubled employment and built new housing, health centers and children's programs in northeast Oklahoma, where most of the tribal members live; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, she signed an unprecedented agreement in which the Bureau of Indian Affairs surrendered direct control over millions of dollars in federal funding to the tribe; and

WHEREAS, under Wilma Mankiller's leadership, infant mortality declined and education achievement of tribal members rose; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, she worked to improve the lives of Native women and women across America, and was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993; and

WHEREAS, after stepping down as chief of the tribe in 1995, Wilma Mankiller dedicated herself to teaching and volunteering; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2010, at the age of 64, Wilma Mankiller died at her home in Adair County, Oklahoma, from metastatic cancer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of Wilma Mankiller.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Mitch Ceasar, Florida
Diane Glasser, Florida

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of Frankie Drayton Thomas

WHEREAS, Frankie Drayton Thomas was born in West Palm Beach, FL, and graduated from Industrial High School; and

WHEREAS, she received her bachelors degree from Howard University and her masters in public administration from Florida International University; and

WHEREAS, after graduating, Frankie Drayton Thomas went to work for the Florida Department of Public Welfare; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 she retired from the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, where she served as director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services; and

WHEREAS, she was the co-founder of Charmettes, Inc., an organization that unites women in the name of community strength and contributes to or leads many charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Drayton Thomas was a member and officer of several civic and charitable organizations, including the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, the Urban League, the Broward Democratic Club and the Broward County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2010, Frankie Drayton Thomas passed away after a heart attack;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor her life and memory and extend its condolences to her husband, James Thomas, Jr., her children and her grandchildren.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Rhett Bullard, Vice Chair, Florida

Resolution Honoring the Life of Fannie Lucinda Tillman

WHEREAS, Fannie Lucinda Tillman was born on February 11, 1950, in White Springs, Florida; and

WHEREAS, she attended Carver High School in White Springs, Florida and graduated from Hamilton County High School in Jasper, Florida and earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology with high honors from Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Fannie Tillman attended and was a lifelong member of St. Luke Freewill Baptist Church in White Springs, Florida as well as a founding member of St. Luke's Tutoring Ministry; and

WHEREAS, she was also very civic minded and active in Eastern Stars and the Council of Negro Women as well as the Hamilton County Democratic Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Fannie Tillman served as an Executive Officer of the Hamilton County Democratic Executive Committee for many years; and

WHEREAS, she was intricately involved in Democratic politics in north central Florida doing grassroots work for a variety of local, state, and federal candidates over the year, most recently for Barack Obama's successful Presidential bid in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Fannie Tillman passed away unexpectedly at her home on April 15, 2010;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee honor the life of Fannie Lucinda Tillman and offer its condolences to her many friends and family.

The following resolution will be considered by the DNC Resolutions Committee at its meeting on August 19, 2010, in conjunction with the meetings of the Democratic National Committee, August 19-20, 2010.

Submitted by: Roberto Prats, Chair, Puerto Rico
 Luisette Cabañas, Vice Chair, Puerto Rico
 Andrés López, At-Large/Puerto Rico
 Kenneth McClintock, Puerto Rico
 Celita Arroyo de Roque, Puerto Rico
 Francisco Domenech, Young Democrats of America/Puerto Rico

Resolution Honoring the Life and Career of William Miranda Marín

WHEREAS, William Miranda Marín was born Sept. 23, 1940 in the Tomas de Castro sector of rural Caguas; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from the José Gautier Benítez High School in Caguas in 1957; and

WHEREAS, he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras in 1961; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, he completed his law degree at the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras and was admitted to the bar in 1970; and

WHEREAS, William Miranda Marín held top positions at Empresas Díaz and the San Juan Cement Company from 1979 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, William Miranda Marín also served as a member and treasurer of the board of the Puerto Rico Health Corp. and as chairman of the board of the Community Services Institute; and

WHEREAS, he served as executive vice president of the Government Development Bank from 1973 to 1975, and executive director of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority from 1975 to 1976; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 1992, William Miranda Marín served as Adjutant General of the Puerto Rico National Guard with the rank of Major General; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong member of the Popular Democratic Party (PDP) and president of the Mayors Association, he served as chairman of the Democratic Party of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, secretary-general of the PDP and chairman of the PDP Status Commission; and

WHEREAS, William Miranda Marín served as mayor of Caguas from Jan. 13, 1997, until his death on June 4, 2010 from pancreatic cancer;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee offer its condolences to his wife Carmen Sara Torres and three children, William Edgardo, Luis Alexander and José Juan.