

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 53

Adopted in Senate August 29, 1997

Secretary of the Senate

Adopted in Assembly September 9, 1997

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This resolution was received by the Secretary of
State this ____ day of _____, 1997,
at ____ o'clock __M.

Deputy Secretary of State

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RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 53—Relative to Dr. George Washington Carver Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 53, Watson. Dr. George Washington Carver Day.

This measure would designate January 5th as “Dr. George Washington Carver Day,” in honor and celebration of his many accomplishments and contributions to the people of California, the United States, and the world.

WHEREAS, 1996–97 is the centennial celebration of the arrival of Dr. George Washington Carver in Tuskegee, Alabama, where Dr. Carver was a prominent resident from October 8, 1896, until his death on January 5, 1943; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has designated January 5, 1946, as “Dr. George Washington Carver Day,” and authorized the Secretary of State to issue a proclamation to fly the United States flag on all government buildings in commemoration of the achievements of Dr. George Washington Carver; and

WHEREAS, Upon approval of the United States Congress to designate “Dr. George Washington Carver Day,” nine sister states including Illinois, Indiana, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Iowa, and Alabama now honor this great American; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being an accomplished scientist, Dr. Carver also was an outstanding educator, artist, poet, musician, and benefactor to the American people; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carver helped to liberate the Southern economy from excessive dependence on cotton and, by 1938, peanut crops had become a \$200 million industry; and



WHEREAS, Dr. Carver discovered countless uses for the peanut, sweet potato, and soybean, thus stimulating production of these crops throughout the South; and

WHEREAS, While serving as the first Black instructor at Iowa State, Dr. Carver was invited by the eminent educator, Booker T. Washington, to join the faculty at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) as director of the Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, In February 1897, Dr. Carver became the first director of the State Agricultural Experiment Station, approved by legislative act for Tuskegee on February 18, 1897; and

WHEREAS, The epitaph on his tombstone in Tuskegee appropriately reads: “He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carver’s gravesite, as well as the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, which was established in his honor and that of Booker T. Washington, is one of the most popular tourist sites in the Southern United States, and was visited by over 800,000 visitors during 1996; and

WHEREAS, California is proud to follow the United States Congress and nine other states by declaring January 5th as “Dr. George Washington Carver Day,” and reaches out to the other 40 states to join in this celebration; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That January 5th is designated as “Dr. George Washington Carver Day,” in honor and celebration of Dr. Carver’s many accomplishments and contributions to the people of our state, our nation, and the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.



Attest:

Secretary of State

