

RESOLUTION HONORING FIRST LADY MICHELLE LAVAUGHN ROBINSON OBAMA

WHEREAS, Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is a lawyer, writer, wife of the current President Barack Obama and is the first African American First Lady of the United States. Through her multiple initiatives, she has become a role model for women and an advocate for healthy families, service members and their families, higher education and international adolescent girls' education.

WHEREAS, in March 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama worked with 23 fifth graders from a local school in Washington, DC to plant an 1,100-square-foot garden of fresh vegetables and install beehives on the South Lawn of the White House; and in 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama and four Cabinet secretaries joined to launch, Let's Read, Let's Move, an initiative to get more Americans volunteering to combat childhood obesity and summer learning loss among youth. This movement has brought together community leaders, educators, medical professionals, parents and others to address childhood obesity. The First Lady's efforts to improve diet and nutrition for kids and families has led to District, state and federal funding of fresh produce markets throughout the country, has added focus to honeybee population reduction and has led to inclusion of expanded nutritional information on fast food and restaurant menus; and she released a book as part of her mission to promote healthy eating, *American Grown: The Story of the White House Garden and Garden Across America* (2012), which explores Obama's own experience creating a vegetable garden as well as the work of community gardens elsewhere.

WHEREAS, in 2009, First Lady Michelle Obama initiated visits to federal agencies and military installations, which culminate in visit to more than 20 agencies and led to the first ever open thank you letter to the federal workforce signed by 15 Cabinet secretaries and other top government bosses; and later First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden came together to launch *Joining Forces*, a nationwide initiative calling all Americans to rally around service members, veterans and the families and support them through wellness, education and employment opportunities and

WHEREAS, in 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama launched the *Reach Higher Initiative*, an effort to inspire young people across America to take charge of their future by completing their education; and in 2015, First Lady Michelle Obama and President Obama joined forces to launch *Let Girls Learn*, a U.S. government-wide initiative to help girls around the world go to school and stay in school.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN congratulates and commends First Lady Michelle Obama on her use of her status as First Lady to bring national attention to:

- Perils and solutions to childhood obesity
- Healthy, organic and nutritious meal alternatives and to the benefits of growing fruit and vegetables
- The stressors, issues and needed support of veteran families
- The federal workforce
- The unique needs for mentoring, leadership and educational support for adolescent girls; and
- The expansive need to support international girls in their quest for education
- Afrocentric family values and reinforcing positive perceptions of African American family structure within the White House.

With dignity, grace, intelligence and wonderful work ethic and sense of herself and her role in history, First Lady Michelle Obama reflects the best of attributes of a First Lady, First Mother and First Wife and we thank her for her eight years of service to our country.

The National Federation of Democratic Women shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the First Lady Michelle Obama.