

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BARRINGTON ANTONIO IRVING,  
THE YOUNGEST PILOT AND FIRST PERSON OF AFRICAN DESCENT EVER  
TO FLY SOLO AROUND THE WORLD

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NOVEMBER 15, 2007.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. OBERSTAR, from the Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 661]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 661) honoring the accomplishments of Barrington Antonio Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to fly solo around the world, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the resolution as amended be agreed to.

The amendments are as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- (1) honors the accomplishments of Barrington Irving, the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to fly solo around the world and founder of a nonprofit organization that inspires youth to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace;
- (2) encourages young people and minorities to pursue educational opportunities in preparation for careers in aviation and related industries; and
- (3) encourages museums throughout the Nation related to aviation to commemorate the historic achievements of Captain Barrington Irving.

Amend the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas Barrington Irving was born in 1983 in Kingston, Jamaica, and raised in inner-city Miami, Florida; and

Whereas Irving discovered his passion for aviation at the age of 15 when Captain Gary Robinson, a Jamaican airline pilot who has since served as his mentor, took him to tour the cockpit of a Boeing 777;

Whereas Irving overcame financial hardship to pursue his dream to become a pilot by working miscellaneous jobs and working for private aircraft owners in exchange for flying lessons;

Whereas Irving was the recipient of a joint Air Force/Florida Memorial University Flight Awareness Scholarship to cover college tuition and flying lessons for his tireless volunteer efforts and commitment to community service;

Whereas in 2003, Irving contacted companies including aircraft manufacturer Columbia, which agreed to provide him with a plane to fly around the world if he could secure donations and components;

Whereas over several years, Irving visited aviation trade shows throughout the country and secured more than \$300,000 of cash and donated components in-

cluding the engine, tires, cockpit systems, and seats for a Columbia 400, one of the world's fastest single-engine piston airplanes;  
 Whereas in the process of pursuing his dream of an around the world flight, Irving founded a nonprofit organization in 2005 to address the significant shortage of youth pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace;  
 Whereas Irving's efforts have garnered widespread community support and sponsorship as an effective model to expose young people and underrepresented groups to opportunities in aviation;  
 Whereas on March 23, 2007, Irving embarked from Miami, Florida, on a 24,600-mile flight around the world in an airplane named "Inspiration" at 23-years of age while still a senior majoring in aerospace at Florida Memorial University;  
 Whereas on June 27, 2007, Irving concluded his flight in Miami, Florida, after stopping in 27 cities throughout the world; and  
 Whereas Irving continues to inspire youth and adults alike with his achievements and work to increase the accessibility of opportunities in aviation and aerospace: Now, therefore, be it

#### PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

House Resolution 661, as amended, expresses the House of Representatives' support for the accomplishments of Barrington Antonio Irving, a 23-year-old senior majoring in aerospace at Florida Memorial University and the youngest pilot and first person of African descent ever to embark on a 24,600-mile solo flight around the world.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H. Res. 661 expresses the House of Representatives' support for the accomplishments of Barrington Antonio Irving, the youngest pilot and the first person of African descent ever to embark on a 24,600-mile solo flight around the world.

Irving was born in 1983 in Kingston, Jamaica, and was raised in Miami, Florida. He discovered a passion for aviation at the age of 15 when Captain Gary Robinson, a Jamaican airline pilot, who has since served as his mentor, took him to tour the cockpit of a Boeing 777.

In 2003, Irving's passion for aviation propelled him to attend the Florida Memorial University where he majored in aerospace. That same year, Irving began pursuing a new dream of becoming the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world.

Irving began contacting companies including an aircraft manufacturer, Columbia, which agreed to provide him with a plane to fly around the world if he could secure donations and components. Over several years, Irving visited aviation trade shows throughout the country and secured more than \$300,000 in cash and donated components including the engine, tires, cockpit systems, and seats for a Columbia 400, one of the world's fastest single-engine piston airplanes.

While fundraising for his flight around the world and earning his pilot's license, Irving overcame other financial hardships by doing miscellaneous jobs for private aircraft owners in exchange for flying lessons, and by earning a scholarship for his volunteer efforts and commitment to community service.

In 2005, Irving blended his commitment to community service and his passion for aviation when he founded a nonprofit organization that addresses the significant shortage of young men and women pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace.

In March 2007, at the age of 23, Irving finally realized his dream. He took off from Miami, Florida, on a 24,600-mile flight

around the world in an airplane named “Inspiration”, becoming the youngest pilot and the first person of African descent to fly around the world. During his flight, Irving stopped in 27 cities before finally landing back in Miami, Florida.

This resolution honors Irving’s passion for aviation and his commitment to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot. This resolution also recognizes Irving for his volunteer efforts and commitment to community service. It encourages museums throughout the nation related to aviation to commemorate the historic achievements of Captain Barrington Irving.

#### SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

H. Res. 661 honors Irving’s passion for aviation and his commitment to pursue his dream to become a pilot by doing miscellaneous jobs, working for private aircraft owners in exchange for flying lessons, and later founding a nonprofit organization to address the shortage of youth pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace. This resolution recognizes Irving for his volunteer efforts and commitment to community service and encourages museums throughout the nation related to aviation to commemorate the historic achievements of Captain Barrington Irving.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On September 18, 2007, Representative Alcee L. Hastings introduced H. Res. 661.

On October 31, 2007, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider H. Res. 661. During consideration of the resolution, an amendment in the nature of a substitute was adopted that made technical corrections to the resolution. The Committee ordered H. Res. 661, as amended, reported favorably to the House by voice vote with a quorum present.

#### RECORD VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against. There were no recorded votes taken in connection with any amendment offered to H. Res. 661 or on ordering the resolution reported. A motion to order H. Res. 661, as amended, reported favorably to the House was agreed to by voice vote with a quorum present.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(I) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee’s oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

#### COST OF LEGISLATION

Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 661 is a resolution of the House of Representatives and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, there is no cost associated with this resolution for fiscal year 2008, or for any fiscal year thereafter.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs to the appropriate levels under current law is required.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no statement of general performance goals and objectives for any measure that authorizes funding is required.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding. Neither a cost estimate nor comparison for any measure that authorizes funding is required.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 661 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause (3)(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 661 is a resolution of the House of Representatives and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, clause (3)(d)(1) of rule XIII does not apply.

## FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

H. Res. 661 contains no Federal mandates.

## PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee states that H. Res. 661 does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are created by this Resolution.

## APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (Public Law 104-1).

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

H. Res. 661 makes no changes in existing law.

