



ADVANCING EARTH
AND SPACE SCIENCE

12 July 2018

The Honorable Christopher Coons
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Coons, Murkowski and Harris:

On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its 60,000 Earth and space scientist members, I am writing to endorse the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act.

This bill would honor the pioneering work of four female scientists – Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden – who made significant contributions to advance the United States’ efforts in the space race, which captivated the nation in the 1950s and 1960s, and who made a lasting impact on the fields of aeronautics and space science.

Their dedication to their scientific work and our nation not only challenged the social barriers of their time, but also paved the way for other women and persons of color to pursue a career in science where these communities are woefully under-represented. While generations to come will continue to benefit from their advances in science whether they are aware of these extraordinary women or not, this bill helps to immortalize their story as an important part of our nation’s history.

The United States owes Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Dr. Christine Darden our sincerest gratitude. These women exemplify the spirit of this award. We appreciate your work to honor them and their contributions.



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AGU looks forward to working with you to honor these incredible women scientists and engineers.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine W. McEntee'.

Christine W. McEntee
CEO/Executive Director
American Geophysical Union

cc:

The Honorable Shelly Moore-Capito
The Honorable Edward Markey
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Thomas Carper
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
The Honorable Margaret Hassan
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Gary Peters
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Tina Smith
The Honorable Johnny Isakson
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Doug Jones
The Honorable Joe Manchin