

the duties of the Task Force; providing for a certain report requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to a Task Force to Study Establishing a Matthew Henson Memorial.

WHEREAS, Matthew Henson, an African American, was born in Charles County ~~in~~ on August 8, 1866; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 12, Matthew Henson, ~~was sent to sea where he learned~~ joined an expedition to China as a cabin boy under the tutelage of Captain Childs, who taught him mathematics; and navigation, how to read, and most importantly, particularly how to read maps; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Henson and ~~Lt.~~ Robert E. Peary traveled seven times to the Arctic on dangerous and difficult expeditions, and as a result ~~Mr.~~ Matthew Henson became a superior dogged driver and hunter an interpreter of the Inuit language and an expert at on arctic survival, including dogsled driving and hunting; and

WHEREAS, On April 6, 1909, ~~Lt. Peary, Matthew Henson, and four Inuit Eskimos reached the Arctic with Matthew Henson arriving well ahead of the others making him the first person to reach the North Pole then Commander Robert E. Peary, Matthew Henson, and four Inuits reached the North Pole, with Matthew Henson having arrived first because he was breaking trail ahead of the group;~~ and

WHEREAS, ~~This significant achievement of Matthew Henson's, including his trek~~ Although Matthew Henson trekked over 400 miles to stand at the axis top of the world, went unrecognized for over 20 years due to the color of his skin because of his race, he was relatively unknown in the United States; and

~~WHEREAS, Eventually Matthew Henson's accomplishment was acknowledged through the receipt of several honorary degrees and the dedication of a glacier, a gymnasium, a middle school, a stamp, a State park, and even an oceanographic ship after him; and~~

WHEREAS, Matthew Henson's accomplishment was eventually recognized in many ways, including: the receipt of a Master of Science Degree from Morgan State College and Howard University; the naming after him of three arctic locations, a bay, a cape, and a glacier; and the honoring of Commander Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson through a State park, a number of public schools, a U.S. Navy Oceanographic ship, and a U.S. postage stamp; and

WHEREAS, The people of Maryland would like to recognize the magnificent contributions of Matthew Henson, a native Marylander and a co-discoverer of the North Pole, by erecting a memorial to honor him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, the General Assembly and Governor establish a Task Force to Study Establishing a Matthew Henson Memorial; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force be composed of: