



ADVANCING EARTH
AND SPACE SCIENCE

16 April 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4330

The Honorable Frank Lucas
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3603

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

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.

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