

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 54

Introduced by McKinney, 11.

WHEREAS, in his final days as president, former President Joe Biden posthumously pardoned Marcus Garvey, the leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), on January 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Marcus formed UNIA in 1914 in Jamaica with an intentional focus on Black self-reliance and a back-to-Africa movement; and

WHEREAS, Marcus moved to Harlem, New York, in 1916, where Marcus organized the International Conference for the Negro Peoples of the World and created the Black Star Line; and

WHEREAS, the Black Star Line eventually failed due to the company being heavily affected by the Great Depression and due to J. Edgar Hoover's sabotage by using the Federal Bureau of Investigation to infiltrate the shipping company; and

WHEREAS, Marcus lost his credibility after the collapse, was prosecuted for mail fraud, and was eventually deported, and in 1940, Marcus suffered a stroke causing the media to prematurely publish obituaries focused on his mail fraud conviction. The action caused Marcus so much distress that he suffered a second stroke and passed away; and

WHEREAS, Marcus was posthumously pardoned to undo the hate garnered towards his ideas and to restore respect to his name and ideas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the hard work of the people fighting continuously to provide evidence for Marcus Garvey's posthumous pardon.

2. That the Legislature congratulates Marcus Garvey, his family, and his descendents on his posthumous pardon.