



SPONSOR: Rep. Lynn & Sen. Paradee  
Reps. Baumbach, Bolden, Brady, Briggs King, Bush,  
Chukwuocha, Cooke, Dorsey Walker, K. Johnson; Sens.  
Bonini, Brown, Cloutier, Delcollo, Ennis, Hansen,  
Hocker, Lawson, Lockman, Lopez, McBride, McDowell,  
Pettyjohn, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon,  
Townsend, Walsh, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HATTIE BERNICE DABNEY MISHOE, THE "FIRST LADY" OF  
DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY.

1 WHEREAS, Hattie Bernice Dabney Mishoe, who was born in July 24, 1914, and died at age 94 on March 17,  
2 2009, was known as the First Lady of Delaware State University ("the University") due to her dedication to the University  
3 community during her husband's 27-year tenure as president of the University; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe was born and raised in Little Plymouth, Virginia, the 9<sup>th</sup> of 14 children. She completed  
5 Holmes Grammar School and, at age 14, joined her oldest sister in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, where she attended Lower  
6 Merion High School, graduating in 1934; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe enrolled in the nurse training program at Mercy Douglass Hospital School for Nurses in  
8 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where this African-American woman worked and paid her way through nursing school. She  
9 also helped her sister through Virginia State College when her sister lost her money due to the banks failing during the  
10 Depression; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe earned her RN in Philadelphia and was licensed in Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania,  
12 and Maryland. She also worked at Provident Hospital, a black-owned and -operated hospital serving the South Side of  
13 Chicago. During a break from nursing, Mrs. Mishoe was doing post-graduate work at the University of Michigan's  
14 Graduate School of Nursing when she met Dr. Luna Isaac Mishoe at the dining hall serving tables in the 1940s; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Mishoe married in 1944, 2 years before he was drafted into Yale University's Officer  
16 Candidate School. Upon completion, they moved to Orlando, Florida, where Dr. Mishoe completed additional training. The  
17 Mishoes moved to Tuskegee, Alabama, and then to Louisville, Kentucky, where Dr. Mishoe was stationed at Godman  
18 Field; and

19 WHEREAS, during this time, Mrs. Mishoe was busy entertaining officers at the Mishoes' home after work, where  
20 they played games like bridge and poker and she cooked for and fed them. Little did she know, her courteous and cordial  
21 manner with the soldiers and her extensive nursing background were preparing her for an important role at then-Delaware  
22 State College, now Delaware State University; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe used her nursing experience to help the University develop its first nursing degree  
24 program, which has become a prominent source of nurses and other medical personnel in this State; and

25 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe has been described as a gracious hostess, humble servant, and tender caregiver; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Mishoe together raised 4 children, Bernellyn Mishoe Carey, Luna I. Mishoe II, Dr.  
27 Wilma Mishoe, and Reverend Rita Mishoe Paige; and a nephew, Henry Mishoe. Their second daughter, Dr. Wilma Mishoe,  
28 is the University's current and first female president; and

29 WHEREAS, the Mishoes extended their home to University students, especially when there were housing  
30 shortages; and

31 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe cooked for students who were struggling with their finances, from out-of-state, or from  
32 other countries. Her generosity was especially heart-warming to students who had to remain on campus during breaks; and

33 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe often represented her husband at events when he had scheduling conflicts; and

34 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe loved attending all of the Hornets' home basketball and football games, and traveled to  
35 the away games with Dr. Mishoe to cheer on the teams. After Dr. Mishoe's death in 1989, Mrs. Mishoe continued to attend  
36 home games while her health permitted, and followed Hornets games on the radio when she could no longer attend in  
37 person; and

38 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe was also very active in the community outside of the University. She served as  
39 president of the Dover High School PTA and played a significant role integrating Dover High School with the enrollments  
40 of Bernellyn Mishoe, Richard "Dickey" Wynder, Tony Powell, and Gwenette Henderson, who were among the first  
41 African-American students to attend Dover High. Integrating Dover High School helped further integration in the Dover  
42 area. At Mt. Zion AME Church, she served as a stewardess, a deaconess, and as Mother of the Church. She was a member  
43 of the Dover, Delaware chapter of the Links, Incorporated, the Electra Chapter #6 Order of the Eastern Stars, and vice  
44 president and manager of Mishoe Tower Incorporated; and

45 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mishoe was inducted into the Delaware State University Alumni Association Hall of Fame,  
46 honoring her dedication and exemplary service as a mentor to thousands of University students.

47 NOW, THEREFORE:

48 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 150th General Assembly of the State of  
49 Delaware, with the approval of the Governor, that Hattie Bernice Dabney Mishoe is recognized for her dedication to  
50 Delaware State University and its faculty, staff, students, and community.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Delaware State University is encourage to honor Mrs. Mishoe and her  
52 contributions to the University by naming a building on campus after her.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Joint Resolution recognizes the many contributions of Hattie Bernice Dabney Mishoe, the "First Lady" of Delaware State University, and encourages the University to name a building on campus after her.