**WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) released the following statement today on the passing of Dorothy I. Height:**

“Today we honor the life of Dorothy I. Height, one of the most influential civil rights leaders in American history. Ms. Height died today at the age of 98, but she leaves behind her a long legacy of successful struggle to secure the rights of all Americans. As President of the National Council of Negro Women for four decades, Dr. Height spoke out passionately for racial and gender equality, and was instrumental in securing desegregated schools and public places, as well as voting rights for African-Americans. Whether she was protesting discrimination in Harlem in the ‘30s, bringing her powers of persuasion to bear on First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in the ‘40s, advocating school desegregation in the ‘50s, or standing beside Dr. King at the Lincoln Memorial in the ‘60s, Ms. Height had a career, and a life, of selfless service. She will be greatly missed.”

###