

House Resolution 1020

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Beverly of the 143rd, Smyre of the 135th, Williams of the 168th, and Mallow of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 62nd anniversary of the mass sit-in organized by the Atlanta Student
2 Movement on March 15, 1960; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on March 15, 1960, Spelman College students Ruby Doris Smith and Gwen
4 Isles, along with Morehouse College student Julian Bond, organized the first sit-ins that
5 challenged the local Atlanta community; and

6 WHEREAS, on that day, over 200 students sat in at 11 stores in downtown Atlanta; 83 of
7 them were arrested; and

8 WHEREAS, six days earlier, their ad, "An Appeal for Human Rights," had been published,
9 an opening salvo in what would be a sustained campaign of sit-ins and boycotts by the
10 student-led Committee on Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR), demanding an end to
11 segregation and racist practices; and

12 WHEREAS, the Atlanta University Center Consortium was ripe for mass political
13 engagement. It included six historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs): Clark,
14 Morehouse, Morris Brown, Spelman College, Atlanta University, and the
15 Interdenominational Theological Center; and

16 WHEREAS, the Atlanta students would go on to play an important role in the Student
17 Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) work. Ruby Doris Smith became one of
18 SNCC's most important leaders and ultimately its program secretary. Julian Bond became
19 SNCC's Community; and

20 WHEREAS, it was in Atlanta where SNCC transitioned to a permanent organization during
21 a conference in October 1960; and

22 WHEREAS, SNCC's national headquarters in Atlanta served as a vital resource center
23 supporting organizing efforts across the South. Those early efforts of COAHR laid the
24 foundation for SNCC's future work as well as the framework for the Atlanta project in 1966.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body honor the historical importance of the mass sit-in events held on
27 March 15, 1960, which paved the way to the desegregation of Atlanta and Georgia's public
28 places.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 Atlanta University Center Consortium.