

House Resolution 1077

By: Representatives Jackson of the 165th, Stephens of the 164th, Williams of the 168th, Gilliard of the 162nd, and Mallow of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Robert "Bob" E. James for over 50 years with Carver State
2 Bank as president and CEO and celebrating the 95th anniversary of Carver State Bank; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, born in 1946 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Robert "Bob" E. James grew up in
5 poverty and through hard work and determination he obtained a scholarship to attend Morris
6 Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, he was among the first African Americans to graduate from Harvard Business
8 School and became the president of Carver State Bank in 1971 at the young age of 24; and

9 WHEREAS, Carver State Bank was founded in February 1927 by Louis B. Toomer, and is
10 the oldest commercial bank headquartered in Savannah and remains the only bank
11 headquartered in one of the city's five low-income census tracts; and

12 WHEREAS, the bank provides financial services to those communities that have been
13 underserved by larger financial institutions, and Carver is the only bank headquartered in
14 Savannah that is certified by the US Treasury Department as a Community Development
15 Financial Institution; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to his leadership at Carver State Bank, Bob revived *The Savannah*
17 *Tribune* weekly newspaper in 1973, one of the oldest newspapers owned by African
18 Americans in the nation and which is now owned and published by Bob's wife, Shirley; and

19 WHEREAS, during 1978, Bob served as Chairman of the National Bankers Association, the
20 trade organization representing the minority and female-owned banks in America, and from
21 1981 to 2002 he served on the Board of the Georgia Telecommunications Authority, and was
22 Chairman of the Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, Bob has served on many other boards and has received many honors for his
24 civic and professional accomplishments, including being named one of the Five Outstanding
25 Young Men in Georgia, one of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans, and most recently
26 being awarded the Legends, Leaders and Life Well Lived award; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
28 extraordinary citizen be appropriately recognized and the anniversary of this historic
29 Savannah bank be celebrated.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body recognize and commend Robert "Bob" E. James for 50 years with
32 Carver State Bank as president and CEO and celebrate the 95th anniversary of Carver State
33 Bank.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Robert
36 "Bob" E. James and the Carver State Bank.