

House Resolution 1215

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162nd, Hitchens of the 161st, Oliver of the 82nd, Gordon of the 163rd, Stephens of the 164th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., and dedicating a building in his memory; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., has long been recognized by the citizens of this state
4 for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
5 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Lovett graduated cum laude with distinction from Yale University with
7 a bachelor's degree in sociology, where he received the 1985 Roosevelt Thompson Prize for
8 his commitment to public service, served as president of the African American Black
9 Cultural Club, and was a member of the football team, Scroll and Key Society, and Alpha
10 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Zeta Chapter; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1988, Judge Lovett earned his law degree from Harvard Law School, where
12 he served as a comments editor on the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, and
13 in 1991 he earned a Master of Laws in litigation from Emory Law School; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Lovett clerked for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, served as an
15 assistant city attorney for the City of Atlanta's Law Department, and worked as an associate
16 for the prestigious law firms Morris, Manning & Martin; Ford & Harrison; and Troutman
17 Sanders; and

18 WHEREAS, with an illustrious legal career spanning over 25 years, Judge Lovett was a
19 longtime advocate for children and youth, with children in his courtroom in Fulton County
20 Juvenile Court often fondly referring to him as the "bow tie judge"; and

21 WHEREAS, Judge Lovett served as a member of the board of the National Association of
22 Counsel for Children and president, member of the executive board, member of the judicial
23 section of the Gate City Bar Association; and

24 WHEREAS, he served as chairman of the board for the Gate City Bar Foundation and
25 volunteered his time to mentor young attorneys on the practice of law; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and
27 contributions of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized appropriately by
28 dedicating a building in his memory.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the Savannah Regional Youth Detention Center for the
31 Department of Juvenile Justice located in Savannah, Georgia, is dedicated as the Judge
32 Willie J. Lovett, Jr., Juvenile Justice Center.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Building Authority is authorized and
34 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr.,
35 Juvenile Justice Center to be funded from the budget of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
38 family of Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., and to the public and the press.