

House Resolution 1737

By: Representatives Beasley-Teague of the 65th and Thomas of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Ralph Worrell; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Ralph Worrell; and

4 WHEREAS, Ralph Worrell was born in Barbados in the 1930s before moving to New York
5 City, where he would attend business school and begin his career as an organizer with Retail
6 Wholesale Department Store Union (RWDSU) District 65 in Harlem, which was part of the
7 UAW; and

8 WHEREAS, Ralph's career with the RWDSU led him to involvement in civil rights causes
9 and, during the early 1960s, he was inspired by hearing the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr.
10 Martin Luther King, Jr.; later, he received a personal charge to serve from Dr. King himself;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, his work with the civil rights movement would lead him to participate in the
13 Selma to Montgomery March and other related activities, including fund-raising for the
14 movement; and

15 WHEREAS, Ralph began working with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
16 (SCLC) as a labor union representative to help organize the Poor People's Campaign and,
17 afterwards, he would officially join the SCLC in Atlanta, serving with the organization for
18 more than 50 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Ralph Worrell considered himself a Civil Rights "foot soldier" who never gave
20 up on his pursuit of equality for all; and

21 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
22 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
23 family and friends were admired by others; and

24 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
25 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
26 made this world a better place in which to live; and

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Ralph Worrell will long be remembered
28 for his love of family and friendship and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
29 knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Ralph Worrell and express
32 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
35 family of Ralph Worrell.