

House Resolution 1790

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, McClain of the 100th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Jones of the 53rd, and Gilliard of the 162nd

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 on March 19, 2018; and

4 WHEREAS, Ralph Worrell was born in Barbados on May 15, 1929, and later moved to New
5 York City, where he would attend business school and begin his career as an organizer with
6 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union (RWDSU) District 65 in Harlem, which was part
7 of the UAW; and

8 WHEREAS, Ralph's career with the RWDSU led him to involvement in civil rights causes;
9 during the early 1960s, he was inspired by hearing the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr.
10 Martin Luther King, Jr., and later, he received a personal charge to serve from Dr. King
11 himself; 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 fundraising 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, organizing protests against apartheid in South Africa and
21 playing a key role in the SCLC's participation in the Million Man March and in quelling civil
22 unrest following the Rodney King verdict; and

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

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

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

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

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