

## House Resolution 692

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, and Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating Black Restaurant Week; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, founded in 2016 by Warren Lockett, Falayn Ferrell, and Derek Robinson, Black  
3 Restaurant Week is dedicated to celebrating the flavors of African American, African, and  
4 Caribbean cuisine nationwide; and

5 WHEREAS, through a series of events and promotional campaigns, Black Restaurant Week's  
6 culinary initiatives help introduce culinary business and professionals to the community and  
7 highlight Black-owned culinary businesses including chefs, restaurants, catering services,  
8 food trucks, bakeries, and culinary products; and

9 WHEREAS, with the goal of stimulating the local economy through the Black culinary  
10 industry, Black Restaurant Week proves to be a lifeline for Black-owned restaurants each  
11 year, and that sentiment has only intensified with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, since February 2020, Black-owned restaurants have faced disproportionate  
13 economic setbacks and closure rates, which has led Black Restaurant Week to support 670  
14 Black-owned culinary businesses across the United States and generate an average of 34  
15 percent sales increase despite dining restrictions; and

16 WHEREAS, in the same year, the Feed the Soul Foundation was established to support  
17 marginalized and under-represented entrepreneurs in the culinary industry through business  
18 development and membership opportunities; and

19 WHEREAS, through the Restaurant Business Development Fund, they were able to award  
20 25 businesses with \$10,000 as well as financial-literacy training, marketing-strategy tips, and  
21 a six-month consultation program that included branding aid, beverage development, and  
22 menu consultation; and

23 WHEREAS, from September 3 to 15, 2021, Black Restaurant Week celebrated Atlanta's fifth  
24 annual Black Restaurant Week campaign and the highest amount of participants ever with  
25 102 culinary businesses and professionals in attendance; and

26 WHEREAS, the highly anticipated return of Black Restaurant Week in Atlanta will be held  
27 August 5 to 14, 2022; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
29 extraordinary organization and week-long celebration be appropriately recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body commemorate Black Restaurant Week for its many wonderful  
32 contributions on behalf of Black-owned culinary businesses and extend best wishes for many  
33 more years of success.

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 the  
36 public and the press.