

## House Resolution 7EX

By: Representatives Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup> and DeLoach of the 167<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Linnie Louis Darden Jr.; 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 Dr. Linnie Louis Darden Jr. on November 27, 2023; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Darden was born on January 21, 1934, in Bellville, Texas, a beloved son  
5 of Linnie Louis Darden Sr. and Victoria Darden; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Dr. Darden's early years were marked by his standout performance as a high  
7 school football player at Central High School in Galveston, Texas, where he received his  
8 primary education and later met the love of his life, Shirley; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Shirley and was blessed with six  
10 remarkable children, Linnie III, Allan, Darryl, Rochelle, Amsale, and Otis; 16 wonderful  
11 grandchildren; and 12 outstanding great-grandchildren; and
- 12 WHEREAS, his dedicated service extended far beyond national borders as at the age of 27,  
13 Dr. Darden became the first African American Church of Christ missionary to Africa and

14 played a pivotal role in establishing the Amaha Desta School for the Deaf in Addis Ababa,  
15 Ethiopia, tirelessly working to spread the teachings of the Gospel of Christ; and

16 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
17 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during the Korean  
18 War; and

19 WHEREAS, he further served during the Vietnam War as a Red Cross Field Officer,  
20 volunteering innumerable hours of his time and energy to ensure the safety of others; and

21 WHEREAS, upon his return to the United States, Dr. Darden graduated from college and  
22 thereafter spent the majority of his life as an educator for at-risk youth, leaving an indelible  
23 impact on countless young lives; and

24 WHEREAS, first settling in Georgia in 1985, Dr. Darden continued his noble work by  
25 teaching at Savannah Technical College and Savannah State University, and in 1994, he  
26 founded the Save Our Children program in Hinesville, Georgia, a non-profit initiative  
27 focused on empowering at-risk youth with life skills and drug education; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Darden's spiritual leadership was evident in his roles as a deacon at the  
29 Church of Christ in San Leandro, California, and later as an elder at the Parkway Church of  
30 Christ in Savannah, Georgia; and

31 WHEREAS, even in his later years, Dr. Darden pursued academic excellence and earned a  
32 doctorate in Religious Counseling at the age of 80, centering his thesis on the critical subject  
33 of at-risk youth; and

34 WHEREAS, in 2020, Dr. Darden received a congressional commendation for his Legends,  
35 Leaders, and A Life Well Lived Award from Senior Citizens, Inc.; and

36 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. Linnie Louis Darden Jr. will long be  
37 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who  
38 had the great fortune of knowing him.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
40 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Linnie Louis Darden  
41 Jr. and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
44 family of Dr. Linnie Louis Darden Jr.