

## House Resolution 839

By: Representatives Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 39<sup>th</sup>, and Paris of the 142<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. David Eugene Rivers; 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. David Eugene Rivers on February 4, 2022; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. David Eugene Rivers was born on June 7, 1943, in South Carolina, a  
5 beloved son of Joseph and Lorine Rivers; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
7 States Army, valiantly and courageously serving for three years at various military  
8 installations throughout the world; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Dr. Rivers earned his undergraduate degrees in urban affairs, political science,  
10 and public administration at Georgia State University and was a member of the school's first  
11 Black Greek organization, Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc.; and
- 12 WHEREAS, dedicated to bettering his community, Dr. Rivers joined the faculty of the  
13 Medical University of South Carolina in 1995 and served in many distinguished capacities,  
14 promoting partnerships between academic institutions, government agencies, elected

15 officials, business industry, faith based groups, and community activists to build healthier  
16 communities; and

17 WHEREAS, he served as principal investigator, administering over \$20 million in sponsored  
18 funding during his career, and collaborated in securing over \$100 million in funding for  
19 national, state, and local programs; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Rivers was the first African American to hold a city-wide elected office in  
21 Charleston, South Carolina, in 2003, and was Atlanta's first African American commissioner  
22 of budget and planning under Mayor Maynard Jackson; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Rivers held leadership positions on the Atlanta Regional Commission,  
24 Georgia State University, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S.  
25 Department of Energy; and

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

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

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. David Eugene Rivers will long be  
33 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who  
34 had the great fortune of knowing him.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. David Eugene Rivers  
37 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
40 family of Dr. David Eugene Rivers.