

House Resolution 984

By: Representatives Dreyer of the 59th, Lopez of the 99th, Schofield of the 60th, McClain of the 100th, and Cannon of the 58th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Dorothy Bolden for her work to improve the lives of communities
2 of color and domestic workers in Georgia and across the United States of America; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Dorothy Bolden became an activist for civil rights in Atlanta in the 1940s, and
5 continued to be involved in the civil rights movement until her death in 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, she became a domestic worker at age nine; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1968, with the encouragement of her neighbor, Martin Luther King, Jr., she
8 founded the National Domestic Workers Union (NDWU) in Atlanta; and

9 WHEREAS, the NDWU eventually represented more than 30,000 domestic workers in ten
10 cities, and was the longest surviving union of domestic workers in United States cities; and

11 WHEREAS, in April 1972, then-Governor Jimmy Carter declared Maids' Honor Day as an
12 official holiday in the State of Georgia in collaboration with Dorothy Bolden and the
13 NDWU; and

14 WHEREAS, Bolden was an advisor to Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy
15 Carter; and

16 WHEREAS, President Nixon appointed her to an advisory committee on welfare and social
17 services; and

18 WHEREAS, she used her influence to ensure the participation of communities of color in the
19 planning for the first referendum to fund the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
20 (MARTA), and subsequently supported its passage; and

21 WHEREAS, she registered thousands of Georgians to vote; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
23 extraordinary citizen be appropriately recognized.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body recognize and honor Dorothy Bolden's many outstanding
26 contributions on behalf of the citizens of Georgia and of the United States and her legacy of
27 civil rights achievements.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
30 public and the press.