

## House Resolution 1163

By: Representatives Smyre of the 136<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Buck of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Stanley of the 50<sup>th</sup> and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of I. Owen Funderburg and expressing regret at his passing; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, I. Owen Funderburg is considered the man who saved Citizens Trust Bank, the  
4 nation's third largest black-owned bank; and

5 WHEREAS, when the Monticello, Georgia, native became president of the Atlanta bank in  
6 1975, it had lost \$1.5 million the year before; and

7 WHEREAS, it returned to profitability in 1977 and had assets of \$115 million when he  
8 retired in 1992 as chief executive officer; and

9 WHEREAS, he was highly regarded as a consummate banker with an innate ability to assess  
10 risk; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Funderburg was a director of the Georgia World Congress Center, served  
12 in the Underground Festival, Inc., board, and was a member of the Atlanta Business Hall of  
13 Fame; and

14 WHEREAS, he was the first black graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers  
15 University in New Jersey; and

16 WHEREAS, when he was lured back to Atlanta from a St. Louis bank, he bought a 23 acre  
17 farm where he raised quarterhorses, tended his vegetable garden, and shared his cooking  
18 skills with his friends and fellow Morehouse College Alumni; and

19 WHEREAS, he is survived by his lovely wife, Clara Comeaux Funderburg, three sons, three  
20 stepsons, one brother, and six grandchildren.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
2 the members of this body honor the life of I. Owen Funderburg, commend his enduring  
3 contributions to the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia, and express their sincere  
4 condolences to his family.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Clara Comeaux  
7 Funderburg.