

House Resolution 1228

By: Representatives Turnquest of the 73rd, Heard of the 89th, Watson of the 70th and Smyre of the 136th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of
2 Georgia and the Order of the Eastern Star and inviting the members to appear before the
3 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, on June 24, 1791, a general assembly of Black Masons met in Mason's Hall
5 Water Street in Boston, Massachusetts, and formed the African Grand Lodge with Prince
6 Hall as its first Grand Master, which office he held until his death in 1808; and

7 WHEREAS, on June 24, 1808, the name of the African Grand Lodge was changed to the
8 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Massachusetts in honor of Prince Hall;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, today there are 46 Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodges in the United States and
11 one each in Ontario, Canada, Liberia, and the Bahama Islands, all the direct descendants of
12 the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; and

13 WHEREAS, at the close of the Civil War, Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodges began to
14 appear in the southern states and on June 24, 1870, the Reverend J. M. Simms organized the
15 Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge of Georgia and was elected as its first Grand Master; and

16 WHEREAS, since that historic date, the Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge of Georgia has
17 grown from the three original lodges which comprised it to include 223 lodges which have
18 been guided by a succession of Grand Masters as follows: J. M. Simms, Louis B. Toomer,
19 John H. DeVereaux, Alexander Harris, A. K. Desverney, W. E. Terry, John D. Campbell, W.
20 E. Terry, H. R. Butler, J. W. Dobbs, X. L. Neal, Neal A. McQueen, Benjamin Barksdale, and
21 Willie L. Williams, the present Grand Master; and

22 WHEREAS, Freemasonry is the oldest and largest world-wide fraternity dedicated to the
23 Brotherhood of Man; and

1 WHEREAS, in the spirit of helpfulness and brotherly love and guided by strict moral
2 principles, the Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge of Georgia seeks to encourage good will
3 toward all mankind and its rituals are designed to dramatize a philosophy of life based on
4 morality; and

5 WHEREAS, the members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and
6 Accepted Masons of Georgia are dedicated to practicing in their daily lives the principles of
7 brotherly love, charity, and truth and the benefits of their dedication inure to the entire State
8 of Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, the Order of the Eastern Star was formally organized on August 29, 1899, in
10 Savannah, Georgia, and for the ensuing 103 years has steadily grown in strength and service
11 to the principles of Freemasonry.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body honor and commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
14 Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia for their magnificent contributions to the
15 State of Georgia and more than 133 years of outstanding service.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
17 Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia and the Order of the Eastern Star are invited
18 to appear before the House of Representatives on a day and a time to be determined by the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable Grand Master
22 Willie L. Williams.