

House Resolution 206

By: Representatives Turnquest of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Mobley of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Heard of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Epps of the 131<sup>st</sup>, Watson of the 70<sup>th</sup> and others

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 102 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 132 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 at a date 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.