

## House Resolution 979

By: Representatives Bordeaux of the 125<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, Stephens of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Post 2, Brooks of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 111<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to adopt  
2 a U.S. postage stamp honoring the late Westley Wallace Law; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Westley Wallace Law, known as "W.W.Law," was born in Savannah, Georgia,  
4 in 1923, and earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Savannah State College; and

5 WHEREAS, he served the United States Army from 1943 to 1946, but because of his  
6 involvement with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
7 (NAACP), he was discharged, and thereafter went to work for the United States Postal  
8 Service as a letter carrier for 42 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Law was the leader of the civil rights movement in Savannah, becoming the  
10 youngest person ever elected to the National Board of Directors of the NAACP in 1950,  
11 where he continued to serve for 30 years. He also served as the President of the NAACP  
12 Georgia Branch for 13 years, and as President of the NAACP Savannah Branch for 26 years.  
13 Under Law's leadership, the NAACP Savannah Branch became one of the most active in the  
14 country fighting for desegregation in public education; and

15 WHEREAS, Law's notable accomplishments are too numerous to list, but include:  
16 organizing the first black little league baseball team in 1949; founding the  
17 Savannah-Yamacraw Branch Association for the study of Afro-American Life and History;  
18 organizing the Negro Heritage Trail in Savannah; founding the Beach Institute Historic  
19 Neighborhood to preserve Savannah's only remaining downtown black neighborhood and  
20 prevent black displacement from the inner city; saving the King-Tidwell Cottage which now  
21 serves as an African American museum; and organizing the first city-wide Black Heritage  
22 Festival; and

23 WHEREAS, he has also been recognized by Martin Luther King for his work in Savannah's  
24 struggle for change with his work being the "perfect example of nonviolent protest in action";

1 awarded the historic Savannah Foundation's Davenport Award, the first black Savannahian  
2 to receive the honor; awarded the National Preservation Award by the National Trust for  
3 Historic Preservation; and received the highest honor from the Georgia Trust for Historic  
4 Preservation as "a pioneer in African American historic preservation efforts in Georgia and  
5 a dynamic leader in Savannah"; and

6 WHEREAS, while serving his community and the United States Postal Service, he also  
7 dedicated himself to teaching children about their history as a Sunday school teacher for 26  
8 years at his home church, First Bryan Baptist Church.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
10 the members of this body urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States  
11 Postal Service to adopt a U.S. postage stamp honoring the late Westley Wallace Law as a  
12 symbol of civil rights and the black struggle for respect, inspiring generations to follow in  
13 his footsteps.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
15 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
16 of the United States Postal Service.