

House Resolution 1181

By: Representative Howell of the 92nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mr. Raymond Head, Jr., and recognizing February 7, 2004, as "Raymond
2 Head, Jr., Day" in the City of Griffin; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1921, a rising independent businessman and tailor named Raymond Head
4 opened a shop in Griffin, Georgia, and along with his beautiful wife, Pauline, made a home
5 in which to raise their loving son, Raymond Head, Jr.; and

6 WHEREAS, the young Raymond Jr. excelled in school, so much so that Robert Conley, a
7 leader of Griffin's African American community, told the senior Mr. Head that his son
8 should be sent to Tuskegee, Alabama, to attend the famous Tuskegee Institute; and

9 WHEREAS, he attended Tuskegee, and the academic work was challenging; young
10 Raymond met the challenge and graduated with a bachelor's degree in commercial industries
11 and a major in tailoring; and

12 WHEREAS, following graduation, Raymond Head, Jr., decided he would serve his country
13 in World War II, one of our nation's greatest times of need, and entered the army as a
14 corporal and served, beginning in 1945, with the 372nd Infantry Division; and

15 WHEREAS, when Raymond Senior passed away in 1950, young Raymond became the head
16 of the family and oversaw the family business for another 50 years and became a prosperous
17 businessman and leader in his community; and

18 WHEREAS, in the 1960's, he was a shining champion of the civil rights movement in
19 Griffin and through his business and social connections in the white and black communities
20 he was able to bring both races together, a process that resulted in invaluable positive social
21 and racial changes; and

1 WHEREAS, he ran for a seat on the city commission and not until his third attempt, after
2 single-member districts had been drawn, was he elected to the Griffin City Commission, an
3 office he held for 27 years; and

4 WHEREAS, for all his many social, business, and civic contributions to his community, he
5 was honored, in 1999, by his election to the Commissioners Hall of Fame by the Georgia
6 Municipal Association and also with the naming of a pocket park near the Anne Street
7 School as "The Raymond Head, Jr., Park"; and

8 WHEREAS, even in retirement, Raymond Head, Jr., continues to be an inspiration, a
9 community leader, and an ideal symbol of the civil rights movement for all the citizens of
10 Griffin, Spalding County, and, indeed, the entire State of Georgia.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 this body wholeheartedly commends Mr. Raymond Head, Jr., for his many and invaluable
13 contributions to citizens of all colors in this state and recognizes February 7, 2004, as
14 "Raymond Head, Jr., Day" in the City of Griffin, Georgia.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
16 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Raymond Head, Jr.