

## House Resolution 1382

By: Representatives Graves of the 106<sup>th</sup>, Randall of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Birdsong of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Ray of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Jenkins of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and remembering the life of the Reverend James W. "Jimmy" Waters; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Macon, Bibb County, and the State of Georgia lost one of its finest fathers,  
4 husbands, chaplains, and servants of God with the passing of Dr. James W. "Jimmy" Waters  
5 on February 12, 2004; and

6 WHEREAS, the Reverend Jimmy Waters, loving son of the late Clyde and Bonnie Waters,  
7 was born in Gwinnett County, Georgia, on November 16, 1920; and

8 WHEREAS, he graduated from Mercer University in 1949 with a bachelor of arts degree and  
9 received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from Mercer for outstanding leadership in  
10 Christian and civic affairs in June, 1963, and the doctor of divinity degree from Mercer  
11 University in June, 1974; and

12 WHEREAS, he was ordained in 1945 by the First Baptist Church in Tucker, Georgia;  
13 Reverend Waters came to Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church in Macon on December  
14 1, 1945, as a freshman at Mercer and pastored the church for 31 years until he retired in  
15 1977; and

16 WHEREAS, while under his stewardship, Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church's  
17 membership grew from 800 to more than 3,800 members and the church became an  
18 evangelical leader in the Georgia Baptist Convention for over three decades; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Waters was a pioneer of religious broadcasting and, under his  
20 leadership, Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church began broadcasting on local television  
21 and radio as well as broadcasting his Victory Hour radio program worldwide; and

1 WHEREAS, as religious director for WMAZ Radio and Television in Macon, Reverend  
2 Waters was heard daily from 1948 until 2003 and he made over 25,000 broadcasts at home  
3 and overseas; and

4 WHEREAS, he was a member of the National Religious Broadcasters, serving on its board  
5 of directors, and was twice president of the Southeastern Chapter of the National Religious  
6 Broadcasters, which he helped to organize in 1968; and

7 WHEREAS, Reverend Waters was a strong supporter of the Georgia Baptist Convention,  
8 serving as its president from 1974 to 1976 and twice serving as vice president; and

9 WHEREAS, he was especially dedicated to those who serve our public's safety, holding the  
10 rank of captain on the Georgia State Patrol and was chaplain of the Department of Public  
11 Safety, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Macon Police Department, the Macon-Bibb  
12 County Fire Department, and the Bibb County Sheriff's Office and was named the lifetime  
13 chaplain of the Peace Officers' Association of Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, Reverend Waters is survived by his loving and devoted wife of nearly 63 years,  
15 Annette Burton Waters; son, Jimmy Jr.; and daughters, Dianne, Sheila, and Deborah.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
17 the members of this body honor and remember the life of the Reverend James W. "Jimmy"  
18 Waters and express their sincerest appreciation for all his many selfless contributions to this  
19 state and its people.

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 family of Reverend  
22 James W. "Jimmy" Waters and Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church.