

House Resolution 138

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Watson of the 91st, Smyre of the 132nd, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Jones of the 44th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Judge William Augustus Bootle and expressing regret at his passing; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Judge William Augustus Bootle was a judicial pioneer whose long and
4 legendary legal career earned him a place among the giants of American history; and

5 WHEREAS, he was first appointed a United States Attorney in 1929 by President Calvin
6 Coolidge; and

7 WHEREAS, President Dwight D. Eisenhower named him a judge of the United States
8 District Court for the Middle District of Georgia in 1954; and

9 WHEREAS, acting with tremendous courage and a fearless commitment to justice, Judge
10 Bootle ruled in ground-breaking desegregation cases in Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, he made history when he ended 160 years of segregation at the University of
12 Georgia by ordering the admission of two black Atlanta students in 1961; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1962, ending a three-week boycott of Macon City buses, he struck down all
14 state laws and a Public Service Commission rule requiring bus segregation; and

15 WHEREAS, controversy never deterred Judge Bootle; as his landmark decisions shook
16 Georgia's segregated establishment, he stood firm in his belief of equal justice for all; and

17 WHEREAS, he retired as senior judge in 1970 but continued presiding over federal cases on
18 a part-time basis until 1981; and

19 WHEREAS, the City of Macon's federal courthouse was named in his honor in 1998; and

1 WHEREAS, already revered during his lifetime as one of the great judges of our time, Judge
2 Bootle died on January 25, 2005, at the age of 102.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 the members of this body honor the life of Judge William Augustus Bootle, express their
5 gratitude for his enduring contributions to our society and to the ideals of justice and
6 equality, and express their heartfelt sympathy to his sons and daughter.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of William
9 Augustus Bootle.