

House Resolution 236

By: Representatives Jones of the 44th, Brooks of the 63rd, Thomas of the 55th, McClinton of the 84th, Bruce of the 64th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Donald L. Hollowell, expressing regret at his passing, and inviting his
2 family to appear before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Donald L. Hollowell, an eloquent civil rights lawyer, best known for his
4 courtroom fight to integrate the University of Georgia died on Monday, December 27, 2004,
5 at the Atlanta Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, the third child and second son of Harrison Hannibal and Ocenia Bernice
7 Hollowell, he was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1917; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduation from Lane College, he enrolled in the law school at Loyola
9 University in Chicago, Illinois, and earned a Juris Doctor in 1951; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1952, Mr. Hollowell started the law firm which later became Hollowell,
11 Ward, Moore, and Alexander in the City of Atlanta; and

12 WHEREAS, the firm became a launching pad for many of Georgia's notable lawyers and
13 earned Mr. Hollowell the distinction of being the dean of black lawyers in this state; and

14 WHEREAS, his legal career spanned 52 years, during which Hollowell, Ward, Moore, and
15 Alexander handled hundreds of civil rights and civil liberties cases in the state and the federal
16 courts of Georgia, most notable were his representation of Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton
17 Holmes in the landmark case that integrated the University of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, he was also personal attorney to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and
19 served as lead counsel in many of his arrests during the civil rights movement; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1966, Mr. Hollowell became the first African American to head a federal
21 agency in Georgia when President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to lead the southeastern

1 office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, an agency established by the
2 President to combat discrimination based on race and gender; and

3 WHEREAS, he also served as Chairman of the Board and legal counsel for the Voter
4 Education Project in Georgia from 1971 to 1986, in which capacity he helped raise the
5 number of African Americans registered to vote in the United States from 3 million to 5.5
6 million; and

7 WHEREAS, at his death, Mr. Hollowell held senior status in the Atlanta law firm of
8 Hollowell, Foster & Gepp, P.C.; and

9 WHEREAS, he received five honorary degrees from universities throughout the United
10 States and was richly honored in his later years; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Hollowell is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 62 years, Dr.
12 Louise E. Hollowell, a Professor Emeritus of Morris Brown College.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
14 the members of this body honor the life of Donald L. Hollowell, express their gratitude for
15 his enormous contributions to the State of Georgia, and extend their sincere condolences to
16 his family.

17 BE IT RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed
18 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Louise Hollowell.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the family of Donald L. Hollowell is invited to appear
20 before the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker.