

House Resolution 407

By: Representatives Murphy of the 120th, Watson of the 91st, Williams of the 165th, Smyre of the 132nd, Ehrhart of the 36th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Ray Charles and inviting Jamie Foxx, star of the movie *Ray*,
2 to the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on September 23, 1930, Ray Charles Robinson was born the first child of
4 Aretha and Baily Robinson in Albany, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, he rose from the tragedies of poverty, blindness, and the deaths of his younger
6 brother and mother to become a musical phenomenon and a national treasure; and

7 WHEREAS, music played a fundamental role in his life from a very young age when a man
8 by the name of Wylie Pitman taught him his first melodies on the piano; and

9 WHEREAS, the originality and genius of his music defies categorization and earned him 12
10 Grammy Awards; and he has been inducted into the Halls of Fame for his contributions to
11 rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock and roll and is credited with helping to popularize country
12 and western music; and

13 WHEREAS, he was a generous supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and an outspoken
14 advocate for the State of Israel, earning him recognition as the Beverly Hills Lodge of B'nai
15 Brith's "Man of the Year" in 1976; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1979, Ray Charles's classic rendition of "Georgia On My Mind" was declared
17 the official song of the State of Georgia, and he appeared on the floor of the State Capitol to
18 sing its first performance as such; and

19 WHEREAS, the story of Ray Charles is uniquely American and expresses those qualities and
20 dreams held most dear to our nation; and

1 WHEREAS, the month of February is set aside as a time to reflect upon and celebrate the
2 leading figures in black history, and it is highly fitting and proper that this body take this
3 opportunity to thank Jamie Foxx and all those individuals instrumental in creating the film
4 *Ray* depicting the inspirational story of Ray Charles.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
6 the members of this body join together to honor the life of Georgia's native son, the
7 legendary Ray Charles, and extend their sincere welcome and gratitude to Jamie Foxx, star
8 of the movie *Ray*, for his moving portrayal of this monumental man.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jamie Foxx is invited to the House of Representatives
10 at a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker of the House for purposes of being recognized
11 by the House and receiving an appropriate copy of this resolution.