

## House Resolution 407

By: Representatives Murphy of the 120<sup>th</sup>, Watson of the 91<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, 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.