

House Resolution 693

By: Representatives Jackson of the 161st and Bryant of the 160th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating the life of John Alliston White, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, John Alliston White, Sr., the son of Bonaparte and Gussie Wright White, was
3 born on October 27, 1924; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he is a faithful and active member of the Greater Saint James African Methodist
5 Episcopal Church, where he attended Sunday school as a child, was elected as trustee more
6 than 50 years ago, served as trustee emeritus, and presently acts as grandfather to all the
7 young children in the church; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he attended the Chatham County public schools, graduating in 1943 from
9 Alfred Ely Beach-Cuyler High School in 1943; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he answered his country's call to defend freedom, serving valiantly for 22
11 months in the south Pacific with the 51st Defense Battalion, the first African American
12 combat unit, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he began his distinguished career in law enforcement in May, 1947, as one of
14 the "original nine" African American police officers in the Savannah Police Department; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he earned promotion to Corporal in 1956, to Sergeant in 1963, and retired as
16 Lieutenant on October 27, 1984; and
- 17 WHEREAS, during the struggle for recognition of civil rights for African Americans, he
18 served as personal bodyguard to the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while he was
19 in Savannah; and
- 20 WHEREAS, he received many awards and commendations for his exceptional performance
21 as the first sworn African American police officer in Georgia; and

1 WHEREAS, he was united in marriage with Sallie Catherine Williams White for nearly 45
2 years, until she passed from this life in 1995, and they reared a fine family of five children:
3 John Jr., Jonathan, Cheryl, Salathia, and Tyrone, and were blessed with seven beloved
4 grandchildren and three cherished great-grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, he has been known as a good friend to those who needed legal advice and
6 information, a protector of those who needed protection, and the man who intervened in the
7 lives of many young men and set them on the right path.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body commend John Alliston White, Sr., as an excellent leader and
10 exemplary public servant.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to John Alliston White, Sr.