

House Resolution 849

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Dean of the 59th, Orrock of the 58th, Sinkfield of the 60th, Holmes of the 61st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Ethel Mae Mathews and expressing regret at her passing; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ethel Mae Mathews was a fearless community leader who stood up to those in
4 power and on behalf of the powerless and the needy; and

5 WHEREAS, born in Loachapoka, Alabama, and married by the time she was 12 years old,
6 she moved to the City of Atlanta in 1950 alone to rear her four children; and

7 WHEREAS, the daughter of a sharecropper, her early experience with poverty turned her
8 into a tireless advocate for tenants, poor people, children, and the elderly; and

9 WHEREAS, she became a political force to be reckoned with, working as a neighborhood
10 organizer, serving as chair of the Peoplestown Advisory Council, president of the Welfare
11 Rights Organization, and as a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership
12 Conference and the Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Mathews was very active in helping to elect Representative Tyrone Brooks
14 to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1980 and marched with him, the National Field
15 Director for the S.C.L.C., and other activists to force the full desegregation of the Atlanta
16 Journal/Constitution's corporate offices; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Mathews also participated in civil rights marches led by Reverend Hosea
18 William, Douglas Dean, Joe Boone, Arthur Langford, Tyrone Brooks, and others to force
19 Mayor Maynard Jackson to end the tenure of Atlanta Chief of Police John Inman, known as
20 the "the Bull Conner of Atlanta"; and

21 WHEREAS, she was never afraid to speak out for peace, freedom, and equality and for that
22 she earned the undying respect and gratitude of her fellow citizens.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body honor the life of extraordinary service of Ethel Mae Mathews,
3 express their regret at her passing, and extend their condolences to her children,
4 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ethel Mae
7 Mathews.