

House Resolution 968

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132nd, Hugley of the 133rd, Buckner of the 130th, Smith of the 131st, and Smith of the 129th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Remembering and honoring the life of Albert W. Thompson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Albert W. Thompson was a pioneering Columbus lawyer, legislator, and jurist
3 who helped desegregate the Georgia Legislature and became an elder statesman for black
4 lawmakers; and
- 5 WHEREAS, when, in 1951, the late Oscar D. Smith, Jr., agreed to sponsor Thompson, the
6 Howard University graduate became the Columbus bar's first black attorney; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965 as part of a
8 historic group of groundbreaking lawmakers who desegregated the legislature, and, once in
9 office, he helped to inspire younger generations to take an active role in civic life, serving
10 as a mentor to many rising leaders; and
- 11 WHEREAS, his quiet but deliberate style, talent for diplomacy, and the extensive depth of
12 his legal knowledge quickly earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the
13 General Assembly and was noted by Speaker Tom Murphy who appointed him chairman of
14 the Special Judiciary Committee in 1974, making him the House's first black committee
15 chairman since Reconstruction; and
- 16 WHEREAS, upon his election in 1980 to the Superior Court, he became the court's first
17 black elected jurist, and he established a reputation for efficiency and fairness; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in addition to being a monumental figure in his community and throughout the
19 State of Georgia, he was a proud and devoted father to his three children and a consummate
20 gentleman; and
- 21 WHEREAS, with the passing of Albert W. Thompson, the State of Georgia has lost one of
22 its most esteemed and distinguished statesmen and honored citizens.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body join to express their deepest regret at the passing of Albert W.
3 Thompson and extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
5 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Albert W.
6 Thomspen.