

House Resolution 972

By: Representatives Heard of the 114th, McClinton of the 84th, Watson of the 91st, Sims of the 151st, Lucas of the 139th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering and honoring the life of Johnnie Cochran, Jr.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, on October 2, 1937, Johnnie Cochran, Jr., was born in Shreveport, Louisiana,
3 to loving parents who stressed the importance of education, independence, and a color-blind
4 attitude; and

5 WHEREAS, the family moved to Los Angeles, California, where Mr. Cochran received his
6 bachelor's degree in 1959 at the University of California, Los Angeles, before going on to
7 study at the Loyola Marymount University School of Law; and

8 WHEREAS, after passing the California bar in 1963, he took a job with the City of Los
9 Angeles, serving as deputy city attorney in the criminal division until entering private
10 practice in 1965; and

11 WHEREAS, taking a series of highly-publicized cases involving racial prejudice, Mr.
12 Cochran became a prominent and highly respected figure among Los Angeles's African
13 American community; and

14 WHEREAS, after taking a job in the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, Cochran
15 returned to private practice in 1983 and established himself as one of the top lawyers in the
16 western United States, receiving one of his first major victories in the case of Ron Settles,
17 a college football player who died at the hands of police brutality; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran is best known for his celebrity cases, which launched his name
19 across the country, including cases against Michael Jackson, *Diff'rent Strokes* star Todd
20 Bridges, and O. J. Simpson, but he used these as opportunities to shed light on the
21 discrimination affecting everyday individuals from Los Angeles's minority community and
22 was an outstanding advocate for their cause; and

1 WHEREAS, controversial, but effective, Mr. Cochran's engaging manner and sincerity have
2 earned him respect across the country, and it is highly fitting that his legacy be appropriately
3 recognized.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 the members of this body join to express their deepest regret at the passing of Mr. Johnnie
6 Cochran, Jr., and extend to his family their most sincere condolences.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Johnnie
9 Cochran, Jr.