

House Resolution 1680

By: Representatives Thomas of the 55th, Williams of the 165th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th,
Dean of the 59th, Sinkfield of the 60th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Empress Itege Menen Asfaw and proclaiming March 25, 2006, as Empress
2 Itege Asfaw Day; and for other purposes;

3 WHEREAS, on March 25, 2006, Empress of Zion in partnership with the Abarra Movement,
4 a Rastafari women's international organization, will host the 4th annual Empress Menen
5 Conference at Spelman College in Atlanta; and

6 WHEREAS, hundreds of Rastafari women will gather for reasoning, plenary sessions,
7 workshops, and youth presentations on the theme "Collective Security for Repatriation
8 Surety"; and

9 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen Asfaw was born on March 25, 1883, in the Wollo
10 Province of the Ambassel Region; a daughter of King Mikael of Wollo, she was coronated
11 alongside His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I on November 2, 1930, as Queen of Ethiopia,
12 the only unconquered county in Africa, which was observed by 72 nations around the world
13 who bowed in recognition of a black empress; and

14 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen Asfaw was a kind woman by nature, a mother of six
15 children with many grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen exemplified the black woman's role in the struggle for
17 freedom and equality; and

18 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen championed many causes related to education in Ethiopia
19 by founding schools for girls and donating money to various educational causes for the poor
20 and for freed slaves; and

21 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen Asfaw was instrumental in organizing the women of the
22 world against war and its horrific realities; and

1 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen Asfaw's role in education of women, work with the poor,
2 commitment to her spiritual beliefs, and her quiet strength in the face of tribulation has
3 secured a place for her in Ethiopian and world history as a powerful black woman; and

4 WHEREAS, Empress Itege Menen Asfaw was truly deserving of the title of "Queen of
5 Queens" and, although she has joined the ranks of the holy ancestors, she will forever live
6 in the hearts of Africans throughout the Diaspora; and

7 WHEREAS, Empress of Zion and the Abarra Movement is welcomed by the State of
8 Georgia and the City of Atlanta in holding its 4th Annual Conference of Rastafari women
9 at Spelman College on March 23 to March 26, 2006.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 members of this body recognize and commend Empress Itege Menen Asfaw, the Empress
12 of Zion, and the Abarra Movement; and proclaim March 25, 2006, as Empress Itege Asfaw
13 Day at the state capitol.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Empress of Zion and the
16 Abarra Movement.