

House Resolution 1129

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Williams of the 165th, Mangham of the 94th, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Lucas of the 139th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Expressing regret at the passing of Deacon Richard Turner, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Deacon Richard Turner, Sr., passed away on December 5, 2007, and a
3 Homecoming Celebration was held for him at Second Community Baptist Church in
4 Sandersville, Georgia, on December 12, 2007; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he was born on October 31, 1928, as the eighth of nine children born to the late
6 Deacon Claude Turner and Deaconess Beulah Kitchen Turner, who were farmers and
7 entrepreneurs in Tennille and Sandersville, Georgia; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior early in life, and he and his wife,
9 Eloise, founded the Second Community Baptist Church, where he served as chairman of the
10 deacon board until the time of his death and where he started a feed the hungry program and
11 delivered food to the homes of the sick and elderly; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in his youth, he was a farmer and construction worker, and in 1953, he married
13 Eloise "Polly" Cooper; he worked as a carpenter, plumber, electrician, and builder, and he
14 built a home for the couple and their son, Ricky, gaining a reputation in Sandersville as a
15 gentleman who would help anyone who asked; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Deacon Turner was a civil rights activist and leader in Washington County,
17 Georgia, and in 1969, he helped organize the Black Youth Club, which became the impetus
18 of the civil rights movement in Washington County and brought about the desegregation of
19 the public schools and prompted more equality in employment opportunities; and
- 20 WHEREAS, he did not turn away from the dangers of life as a civil rights activist; he was
21 beaten by police, survived gun shots that wrecked his car and damaged his house, and he was
22 jailed numerous times; and

1 WHEREAS, he was the founder of the Sandersville Chapter of the Southern Christian
2 Leadership Conference and served as a national board member; and

3 WHEREAS, his life was one of constant caring and giving and concern for his community,
4 and he left his community, his state, and his nation a better place.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
6 the members of this body express their deepest and most sincere regret at the passing of
7 Deacon Richard Turner, Sr., and convey condolences to his family and friends.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Deacon
10 Richard Turner, Sr.