

## House Resolution 1411

By: Representatives Murphy of the 120<sup>th</sup>, James of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Frazier of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Howard of the 121<sup>st</sup>, Davis of the 122<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Court of Appeals Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr., for his outstanding career and service  
2 to the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr. became the 62nd Judge of the Court of Appeals of  
4 Georgia when he was administered the oath of office by Governor Zell Miller on August 24,  
5 1994, after 33 years of practicing law and serving on the superior court bench; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin was born and reared in Waynesboro, Burke County, Georgia, the  
7 son of John H. Ruffin, Sr. and Anna Davis Ruffin and he is a graduate of Waynesboro High  
8 and Industrial School, Morehouse College, and Howard University School of Law in  
9 Washington, D.C.; and

10 WHEREAS, he was admitted to the Georgia Bar on July 5, 1961; and

11 WHEREAS, he was appointed a Superior Court Judge of the Augusta Judicial Circuit in  
12 1986 by Governor Joe Frank Harris and he continued to serve as a superior court judge until  
13 his appointment to the Court of Appeals; and

14 WHEREAS, in addition to being the first African-American Superior Court Judge for the  
15 Augusta Judicial Circuit, Judge Ruffin was also the first African-American member of the  
16 Augusta Bar Association, and the third African-American and first African-American Chief  
17 Judge to serve on the Court of Appeals of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, in addition to his membership in the State Bar of Georgia, Judge Ruffin is a  
19 member of the bars of the Supreme Court of Georgia, United States Supreme Court, United  
20 States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and United States District Courts for the  
21 Southern and Middle Districts of Georgia; and

1 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin has many current and former professional, civic and religious  
2 affiliations, including: Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia; Council of Juvenile  
3 Court Judges of Georgia; Tenth Judicial Administrative District; Chairman, Board of  
4 Trustees, Institute of Continuing Judicial Education; Georgia Commission on Gender Bias;  
5 Court Reform Committee, Governor's Conference on Justice in Georgia; Georgia  
6 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Georgia Advisory Council to the Legal Services  
7 Program; Judicial Nominating Commission; Georgia Conference of Black Lawyers, Inc.;  
8 State Bar Judicial Compensation Committee; American Judicature Society; National Bar  
9 Association; American Bar Association; Augusta Bar Association; and the Atlanta Bar  
10 Association; and

11 WHEREAS, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Council of Superior Court Judges and  
12 was on track to become the first African-American to serve as President of the Council of  
13 Superior Court Judges of Georgia prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeals; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin and his beautiful wife, Judith, have one son, Brinkley, and two  
15 grandsons, Bryson and Myles; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Ruffin and his family are members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in  
17 Augusta.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
19 the members of this body honor the outstanding career and many accomplishments of Judge  
20 John H. Ruffin, Jr., and wish him many more years of good health and further success.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
22 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Judge John H. Ruffin, Jr.