

House Resolution 1441

By: Representative Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Empire Board of Realtists, Inc.; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Empire Board of Realtists, Inc. (EBR), was organized in 1939 by seven  
3 black real estate brokers: W. H. Aiken, John G. Allen, O. T. Bell, Wendell Cunningham,  
4 Roger Henderson, J. R. Wilson, Jr., and N. D. Jones, who were dissatisfied with unfair  
5 housing conditions and disgruntled about the poor choice of housing available to blacks; and

6 WHEREAS, between 1939 and 1944, the EBR's main focus was to provide professional  
7 standards for its members, and in 1949 it joined the National Association of Real Estate  
8 Brokers, Inc., adopting the trade designation of "realtist"; and

9 WHEREAS, in the late 1950's, EBR's primary purpose was to educate its membership and  
10 inform the public on the concepts, complexities, and benefits of the federal Urban Renewal  
11 Program; and

12 WHEREAS, the EBR also served as a financial source of bail bonds for civil rights protesters  
13 arrested during the early 1960's; and

14 WHEREAS, during the 1960's, the EBR revised its constitution, continually increased  
15 membership, organized a nonprofit corporation for participation in the 221-Housing  
16 Program, gained financial status, and instituted educational programs which accentuated its  
17 efforts to inform the public about the particulars of home ownership; and

18 WHEREAS, through the 1970's and 1980's and to the present, the EBR gained tremendous  
19 momentum as an organization and its members made significant individual achievements.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
21 the members of this body commend the Empire Board of Realtists, Inc., for its many years

1 of outstanding service as a professional organization and honor its roster of illustrious  
2 members for their important and historical accomplishments.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
4 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Empire Board of Realtists,  
5 Inc.