

House Resolution 1936

By: Representative Thomas of the 55<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mr. Willie A. Watkins; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, for the past 25 years Mr. Watkins has helped people say goodbye to their loved  
3 ones in such memorable fashions as tuxedo and top hat wearing staffers and dove releasing  
4 ceremonies; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1982 Mr. Watkins opened his funeral home in the West End district of  
6 Atlanta and, ever since, he has been easing the pain of patrons during their difficult times;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins began attending funerals with his grandmother as a child and  
9 marveled at how the friends and family of the deceased took a great deal of comfort from the  
10 work of the funeral home; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins began working in funeral homes at the age of 14, eventually  
12 receiving his formal training at Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Services at Morehouse  
13 College, which gave him the tools to establish one of Atlanta's premier funeral homes; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins is active in his community, serving on the boards of the Southern  
15 Christian Leadership Conference, the West End Medical Center, and the National  
16 Association for the Advancement of Colored People; he is also a member of various  
17 professional and civic organizations, including the West End Merchants Association and 100  
18 Black Men of Atlanta; and

19 WHEREAS, in appreciation for all that his community has given him, Mr. Watkins hosts  
20 Annual Community Day every Memorial Day.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
2 the members of this body commend Mr. Willie A. Watkins for his success and thank him for  
3 his contributions to his community.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
5 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Willie A. Watkins.