

## House Resolution 2192

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Morgan of the 39<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Ms. Dorothy Irene Height; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and this country mourns the loss of one of this nation's  
3 great Civil Rights leaders with the passing of Ms. Dorothy Irene Height on April 20, 2010;  
4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, Ms. Height was born on March 24, 1912, in Richmond, Virginia, the beloved  
6 daughter of James and Fannie Burroughs Height; and
- 7 WHEREAS, she was the unheralded seventh member of the "Big Six" Civil Rights leaders,  
8 working alongside Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, John Lewis, A.  
9 Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney M. Young, Jr., on projects of national  
10 significance; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Ms. Height was admitted to Barnard College in 1929 but was turned away from  
12 enrolling in courses because the school had reached its quota for African American students  
13 for the year; and
- 14 WHEREAS, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in  
15 psychology from New York University; and
- 16 WHEREAS, one of the chief organizers of the March on Washington, Ms. Height sat on the  
17 platform just feet away from Dr. King as he delivered his world-changing "I Have a Dream"  
18 speech in 1963; and
- 19 WHEREAS, a prize winning orator, Ms. Height was not asked to speak at the March on  
20 Washington rally, a subject she addressed in her memoir, *Open Wide the Freedom Gates*,  
21 which provided a poignant look at African American history during the Civil Rights era; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Height served as the President of the National Council of Negro Women  
23 from 1957 to 1997, instituting a variety of social programs in the Deep South during the  
24 years of the Civil Rights movement, including the pig bank in which poor black families  
25 were given a pig; and

26 WHEREAS, during the mid-1980's, Ms. Height established the Black Family Reunions  
27 program with the council, in which large, celebratory gatherings were held in cities across  
28 the country devoted to the history, traditions, and culture of African Americans; and

29 WHEREAS, this Civil Rights icon was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by  
30 President Bill Clinton in 1994 and a Congressional Gold Medal from President George W.  
31 Bush in 2004; and

32 WHEREAS, known by many as the godmother of the Civil Rights movement, Ms. Height  
33 was an American hero and a great defender of equality, and her legacy and influence will live  
34 for generations to come.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Ms. Dorothy Irene Height  
37 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Dorothy  
40 Irene Height.