

House Resolution 89

By: Representative Brooks of the 63rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. William Fowlkes; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the passing of one its finest and most distinguished
3 citizens on December 21, 2008, Mr. William Fowlkes; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes earned a bachelor's degree in history from the Tennessee
5 Agricultural and Industrial College, in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1935; and
- 6 WHEREAS, while in college, Mr. Fowlkes worked as a night watchman in the college
7 library, where he was drawn to copies of the *Atlanta Daily World*, a conservative black
8 newspaper; and
- 9 WHEREAS, upon graduation, Mr. Fowlkes was honored to receive a job with the *Atlanta*
10 *Daily World*, where he continued to work for more than 30 years as a reporter and editor; and
- 11 WHEREAS, during his time with the *Atlanta Daily World* Mr. Fowlkes covered many
12 historic racial crimes such as the 1955 murder of Emmett Till and the 1946 Monroe
13 Massacre, in which a lynch mob killed two young black couples in Walton and Oconee
14 counties; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes's passion for justice extended beyond reporting it, as he picked up
16 a potential witness in the Monroe case in the dead of night and transported him to Atlanta so
17 that he would remain unharmed until the trial and later assisted the witness in finding a job;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, Mr. Fowlkes's surviving family includes his two daughters, Wilhelmina
20 Fowlkes and Loretta Harrison, and one granddaughter; and

21 WHEREAS, this talented reporter and jazz pianist will long be remembered by his many
22 readers, friends, and neighbors whose lives he touched daily.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 this body hereby joins in honoring the life and memory of Mr. William Fowlkes and
25 commending his many great achievements.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. William
28 Fowlkes.