

## House Resolution 108

By: Representative Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth has led the life of a dynamic trailblazer and  
3 serves as a civil rights icon; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Shuttlesworth was born in Montgomery County, Alabama, in 1922  
5 and grew up in rural Oxmoor, Alabama; and
- 6 WHEREAS, at the age of 23, Reverend Shuttlesworth accepted his calling and began  
7 preaching in the Alabama towns of Mobile, Selma, and Montgomery, accepting a pastoral  
8 position at Birmingham's Bethel Baptist Church in 1952; and
- 9 WHEREAS, after spending some time in Birmingham, Reverend Shuttlesworth realized his  
10 true purpose was to not only preach the word of God, but to lead by example against the evil  
11 of prejudice; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Reverend Shuttlesworth endured legal action, acts of violence against him, and  
13 threats to the safety and lives of his family and himself in order to stand up against racial  
14 prejudice and inspire others; and
- 15 WHEREAS, considered by many historians to be one of the three most influential leaders  
16 in the civil rights movement, alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Reverend Ralph  
17 Abernathy, Reverend Shuttlesworth helped desegregate buses, restaurants, and schools; and
- 18 WHEREAS, throughout his lifetime, Reverend Shuttlesworth has been a driving force for  
19 change, founding such organizations as the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights  
20 and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Shuttlesworth's sacrifice and fortitude were honored with his receipt  
22 of the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2001 for his lifetime of service; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Shuttlesworth now serves as Pastor Emeritus of the Greater New  
24 Light Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, after retiring after 40 years of dedicated service as  
25 Senior Pastor of the church in 2006.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body commend Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth for his unparalleled  
28 sacrifice and dedication to the civil rights movement and his commitment to equal rights for  
29 all.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Fred L.  
32 Shuttlesworth.