

House Resolution 491

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

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 90th anniversary of Washington Park in Atlanta, Georgia; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Washington Park in Atlanta, Georgia, was designated as the city's first  
4 recreational park for African Americans in 1919; and

5 WHEREAS, land for the original park was donated by the early 20th Century African  
6 American developer Herman Perry and has expanded from its original size of six and a half  
7 acres to 25; and

8 WHEREAS, the designation of Washington Park, along with the redesignation of the Ashby  
9 Street School from a white school to a black school by the Atlanta Board of Education, broke  
10 the "color line" which existed in that area of the city during the early 1900's; and

11 WHEREAS, located in the historic Washington Park district, the park originally included a  
12 swimming pool, dance hall, pavilions, and tennis courts; and

13 WHEREAS, today Washington Park is home to one of only five City of Atlanta natatoriums  
14 and a state-of-the-art tennis center, with its facilities serving some of the most prominent  
15 African American swimmers and tennis players in the country over the past several decades;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, a park with such rich heritage and a vital part in the history of Atlanta and the  
18 State of Georgia is worthy of recognition from this body.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
20 the members of this body recognize Washington Park on the 90th anniversary of its  
21 dedication.

- 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
23 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Washington Park.