

House Resolution 1175

By: Representative Brooks of the 63rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Robert Johnson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Johnson was born on June 17, 1948, in Grenada, Mississippi, the
3 beloved sixth of seven children to the late Finley and Catherine Johnson; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson graduated from Grenada High School, where he was a talented
5 football player, and earned an athletic scholarship to attend Alcorn State University; and
- 6 WHEREAS, in 1966, after seeing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speak during the Meredith
7 March Against Fear, Mr. Johnson was inspired to bring the Civil Rights Movement to
8 Grenada and worked diligently to establish voting rights in Mississippi; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as a field
10 project director and traveled throughout the United States and Africa to spread the message
11 of equality and justice; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 1970, Mr. Johnson was jailed for 45 days in Covington, Georgia, by Sheriff
13 Junior Odom, along with SCLC National Field Director Tyrone Brooks and SCLC staffers
14 Andre Hooker, Lloyd Jackson, Forrest Sawyer, Joe Lightfoot, Po Nolley, and others, while
15 marching in protest of racism, discrimination, and Jim Crow segregation; and
- 16 WHEREAS, in 1971, Mr. Johnson was jailed for his refusal to be drafted into the military
17 and received a full pardon from President Gerald Ford and was released in 1972 after serving
18 18 months; and
- 19 WHEREAS, in Covington, Georgia, Tyrone Brooks introduced Mr. Johnson to Mary Pitts,
20 and the two were united in love and marriage in November of 1974, and their union has
21 blessed them with two remarkable sons, Cleon and Marcus; and

22 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
23 talents, and energy to the City of Atlanta since 1979 as a bus operator for Metro Atlanta
24 Rapid Transit Authority; and

25 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Johnson has been an active member of Mt.
26 Ephraim Baptist Church since 1985, where he faithfully served as a trustee on the official
27 board and was ordained as a deacon in 2002 ; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
29 remarkable and distinguished gentleman be appropriately recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body commend Mr. Robert Johnson for his lifelong commitment to civil
32 rights, recognize his decades of sacrifice promoting justice and equality, and extend to him
33 sincere best wishes for the future.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Robert Johnson.