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House Resolution 1305

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Dukes of the 150<sup>th</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Mary A. Moss Young Cummings; and for other
- 2 purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
- 4 with the passing of Mrs. Mary A. Moss Young Cummings; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings was born on March 3, 1943, in Fitzgerald, Georgia, the
- 6 beloved 13th child of 16 to Ida and Matthew Moss; and
- 7 WHEREAS, a Monitor High School graduate, Mrs. Young Cummings earned a bachelor's
- 8 degree with honors from Savannah State University and a law degree from Howard Law
- 9 School; and
- 10 WHEREAS, active in the Civil Rights movement, she was arrested during the early sixties
- while protesting the segregation of lunch counters, restaurants, and theaters; founded a youth
- 12 chapter of the NAACP in Savannah; worked in Civil Rights campaigns in Georgia,
- 13 Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; and participated in the March on Washington in 1963 and
- 14 the Poor People's Campaign in 1968; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings was very active in Maynard Jackson's campaign to
- 16 represent Georgia in the U.S. Senate in 1968, C.B. King's campaign for Governor of Georgia
- in 1970, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's campaign for President in 1972, Jesse Jackson's
- 18 campaigns for President in 1984 and 1988, and Andrew Young's campaign for Governor of
- 19 Georgia in 1990; and
- 20 WHEREAS, she was the first female African American and second African American to
- 21 practice law in Albany, Georgia; and

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22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings's legal action against the City of Albany resulted in the

- 23 creation of wards for voting purposes, which led to her election to the city commission and
- 24 the historic 1976 election of the first two African American city commissioners; and
- 25 WHEREAS, after serving on the Albany City Commission for eight years, she was elected
- 26 to the Georgia General Assembly, where she served for ten years and was elected to chair
- 27 the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials; and
- 28 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings joined the Brooks Litigation as a co-plaintiff in the
- 29 historic 1988 case that has produced more African American judges in Georgia than any
- 30 other state in the United States; and
- 31 WHEREAS, she was known as one of the Four Horsemen when she joined Cynthia
- 32 McKinney, John White, and Tyrone Brooks in sponsoring the Max Black Reapportionment
- 33 Plan of 1991 which is responsible for Georgia having more African American elected
- officials than any other state in the United States; and
- 35 WHEREAS, her dedication and commitment to the principles of equality and justice were
- 36 recognized with numerous awards, including the Albany NAACP Freedom Award, the
- 37 Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Drum Major for Justice Award, the Outstanding
- 38 Black Georgian in Politics Award from the Committee on the Life and History of
- 39 Outstanding Black Georgians, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Service Award, and
- 40 the President's Award from the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials in October
- 41 2005, during its Fall conference at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia; and
- 42 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Mrs. Young Cummings was called to the
- 43 ministry in the early nineties and was ordained in 1994, serving on the pastoral staff of New
- 44 Dimension Christian Church for many years; and
- 45 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings was blessed with the love of two children, Demetris and
- 46 April, and five delightful grandchildren, Essence, Maya, Nubia, Kenya, and Erica; and
- 47 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings will long be remembered for her love of family and
- 48 friendship, and this loyal mother, sister, grandmother, activist, and friend will be missed by
- 49 all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

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 $50 \quad NOW, THEREFORE, BE\,IT\,RESOLVED\,BY\,THE\,HOUSE\,OF\,REPRESENTATIVES\,that$ 

- 51 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Mrs. Mary A. Moss Young
- 52 Cummings and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.
- 53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
- and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Mary A.
- 55 Moss Young Cummings.