

## House Resolution 138

By: Representatives Horne of the 71<sup>st</sup> and Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. James L. Starnes on the occasion of his 90th birthday; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. James L. Starnes was born on February 12, 1921, grew up in Decatur,  
4 Georgia, and this year he enjoys the rare distinction of celebrating his 90th birthday; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes attended Emory University and served as a guardian of this nation's  
6 freedom and liberty with the United States Navy as an officer; and

7 WHEREAS, during his time in the Navy, Mr. Starnes was involved in the Battle of Cape  
8 Esperance off Guadalcanal on the *USS Boise* and served as a navigator on the *USS Missouri*;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, as the 23-year-old Lieutenant Commander of the *Missouri* during World War  
11 II, Mr. Starnes was the Officer of the Deck on September 2, 1945, when the Japanese  
12 surrendered to the United States, and his signature appears on the historic surrender  
13 document; and

14 WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Starnes graduated from Emory University Law School and  
15 had an active career in real estate, appraisal, and mortgage banking; and

16 WHEREAS, the devotion, patience, and understanding Mr. Starnes has demonstrated have  
17 provided the foundation and framework of success in which his family members have  
18 developed and flourished; and

19 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high  
20 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Starnes possesses the vast wisdom which only comes through experience  
22 and the strength of character which is achieved through overcoming the many challenges of  
23 life; and

24 WHEREAS, this fascinating member of the greatest generation is a person of magnanimous  
25 strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, a kind and generous man, Mr. Starnes brings joy and happiness to his many  
28 friends, neighbors, and family members who have the great pleasure of knowing him; and

29 WHEREAS, by the example Mr. Starnes has made of his life, he makes this world a better  
30 place in which to live, and it is only fitting and proper that he be appropriately recognized  
31 during this very special and memorable time of his life.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body recognize Mr. James L. Starnes on the incredible occasion of his  
34 90th birthday and extend to him their sincere gratitude for his exceptional and selfless service  
35 to this nation.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. James L. Starnes.