

House Resolution 162

By: Representative Brooks of the 63rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Walter Fauntroy; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Walter Fauntroy was born on February 6, 1933, in Washington, D.C., and
3 attended Virginia Union University before graduating from Yale University Divinity School;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Fauntroy served as minister of Washington's New Bethel Baptist Church,
6 which exposed him to a network of activist-preachers and inspired him to join the Southern
7 Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC); and

8 WHEREAS, in 1961, Mr. Fauntroy was appointed by Martin Luther King, Jr., to serve as the
9 Washington Director of the SCLC and later went on to become a trusted lieutenant for Dr.
10 King and serve as local coordinator for the 1963 March on Washington; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to the 1963 March on Washington, Mr. Fauntroy's leadership and
12 guidance were instrumental in his work as an organizer for the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery
13 March and the 1966 March Against Fear; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Fauntroy was appointed to serve as vice president of the "To fulfill these
15 rights" conference by President Lyndon Johnson in 1966 and became the national director
16 of the Poor People's Campaign in 1969; and

17 WHEREAS, he was elected as the Washington, D.C. delegate to the United States House of
18 Representatives in 1971, a position in which he adeptly served for 20 years; and

19 WHEREAS, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. Fauntroy served
20 as the chairman of the House subcommittee which investigated the assassination of Dr. King
21 and uncovered the covert F.B.I. surveillance operation called COINTELPRO; and

22 WHEREAS, a life-long civil rights advocate, Mr. Fauntroy was arrested in 1984 for
23 protesting at the South African embassy against apartheid as part of the Free Nelson Mandela
24 movement; and

25 WHEREAS, today, Mr. Fauntroy has returned to New Bethel Baptist Church, where he
26 serves as pastor, and works as a news commentator and advocate for Project We Care, which
27 encourages churches to take an active role in rebuilding their communities.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body commend Mr. Walter Fauntroy on his amazing lifetime of civil
30 rights advocacy and recognize the impact his work has had upon obtaining equal rights
31 around the world.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Walter Fauntroy.