

## House Resolution 307

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Gordon of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Reverend Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr.; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell was born in Edgefield, South Carolina, and earned a  
5 bachelor's degree from Benedict College; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a minister of 37 years, Reverend Mitchell stood out as a political voice for poor,  
7 marginalized African Americans; and
- 8 WHEREAS, as pastor of Connor's Temple Baptist Church, Reverend Mitchell demonstrated  
9 his commitment to teaching the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and  
10 addressing the physical, psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and
- 11 WHEREAS, after moving to Savannah in 1974, Reverend Mitchell emerged as a leader of  
12 the African American religious community and served as the spokesperson for the  
13 Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, a political action committee of black ministers; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell worked with State Representative Tyrone Brooks in support  
15 of organized labor and as participants in the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials,  
16 an organization in which he was a honorary lifetime member; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell was united in love and marriage to his wife, Betty, and was  
18 blessed with three remarkable children, Benita, Bendette, and Bennie III, and three wonderful  
19 grandchildren, Mychal, Ocoee, and Louis Linceo; and
- 20 WHEREAS, an active community servant, Reverend Mitchell was a member of Savannah's  
21 West Broad Street YMCA Board of Directors, the Savannah Mayor's Council Youth

22 Program, the Advisory Council Youth Program, the advisory board to the Superintendent of  
23 Education for the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education, and the Savannah  
24 Technical College board of directors; and

25 WHEREAS, Reverend Mitchell was a person of magnanimous strengths with an  
26 unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the  
27 example he made of his life, he made this world a better place in which to live; and

28 WHEREAS, whether preparing a sermon, visiting the sick, counseling the troubled, baptizing  
29 a new believer, or acting as a theologian, educator, administrator, or humanitarian, Reverend  
30 Mitchell served as a shining example of God's righteous path; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Reverend Mitchell will long be  
32 remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather,  
33 and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Bennie R.  
36 Mitchell, Jr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend  
39 Bennie R. Mitchell, Jr.