

House Resolution 882

By: Representatives Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Brooks of the 63rd, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Lucas of the 139th, Smith of the 122nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Fred Douglass Taylor; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. Fred Douglass Taylor was born the son and grandson of Alabama
3 sharecroppers and was raised on a plantation in Prattville until the age of 11 when he moved
4 with his grandparents to Montgomery; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor joined First Baptist Church in Montgomery and was baptized in
6 1955 by Dr. Ralph David Abernathy; and
- 7 WHEREAS, a Civil Rights activist at an early age, Mr. Taylor passed out leaflets promoting
8 the weekly mass meetings of the Montgomery Bus Boycott at the age of 13; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Mr. Taylor earned a
10 bachelor's degree from Alabama State University, where he was part of the student leadership
11 that fought for the campus to obtain black police officers to address student discontent
12 regarding the racial policies practiced by the administration at the time; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he obtained a master of divinity degree from Morehouse School of Religion
14 Interdenominational Theological Center before he joined the staff of the Southern Christian
15 Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1969; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor dedicated 38 years to SCLC, serving as office manager at national
17 headquarters, director of chapters and affiliates, coordinator of direct action, and director of
18 field operations; and
- 19 WHEREAS, during his almost four decades with SCLC, he represented the organization in
20 various initiatives, including the coalition with organized labor, abolition of the death
21 penalty, environmental justice causes against toxic landfills in black communities, anti-war

22 movements against the Vietnam and Iraq wars, and non-violence training in search of
23 conflict resolution and reconciliation; and

24 WHEREAS, he has been jailed 27 times for movement causes and has received personal
25 injury standing up for the causes he believes in so deeply; and

26 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Taylor is a founding member of Trinity
27 Baptist Church in Atlanta, where he serves as associate pastor, a teacher in the Bible institute,
28 and a participant with the care ministry; is a charter member of Atlanta's Concerned Black
29 Clergy; and is a member of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda; and

30 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including the A.
31 Phillip Randolph Award from the Atlanta Labor Council, the Rosa Parks Direct Action
32 Award from the SCLC, and the Unsung Hero Father of the Year Award from Concerned
33 Black Clergy; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor is the proud father of Vonya J'Lynn Taylor-Holt and grandfather of
35 Marquis, Anthony, Destiny, Hezekiah, and Deja; and

36 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
37 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body commend Mr. Fred Douglass Taylor for his amazing life's work
40 on behalf of Civil Rights.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Fred Douglass Taylor.