

Senate Resolution 864

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Henson of the 41st, Stoner of the 6th, Butler of the 55th, Sims of the 12th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Eddie Charles Brown, 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 Eddie Charles Brown, Jr., on December 2, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Ed was born on August 9, 1941, in New Orleans, Louisiana, a beloved son of
5 Thelma Warren and Eddie Charles Brown, Sr., and an adored brother to three siblings; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Ed was united in love and marriage to Valinda and was blessed with three
7 remarkable sons and six incredible grandchildren; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he was a consummate organizer, community activist, and civil rights advocate
9 who began working in the areas of human and civil rights in the 1960s, first as a student at
10 Louisiana State University, then as a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating
11 Committee (SNCC), who then devoted his life to the battle for justice, equality, and human
12 dignity on behalf of politically and socio-economically oppressed communities; and
- 13 WHEREAS, as a staffer at the Citizen's Crusade Against Poverty in Washington, D.C., in
14 1965, Ed developed information networks among community-based organizations to support
15 anti-poverty legislation; and
- 16 WHEREAS, in 1967, he organized efforts to improve the political and economic conditions
17 of blacks in the Mississippi Delta as the executive director and founder of the Mississippi
18 Action for Community Education and The Delta Foundation; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he organized communities to fight police brutality and created parent-teacher
20 committees for education reform as the executive director of the New Orleans Area
21 Development Project in 1976; and

22 WHEREAS, Ed served on the World Council of Churches and Emergency Fund for Southern
23 Africa raising funds for humanitarian relief, at the Center for National Security Studies
24 monitoring American defense policies and budgets, and with the American Friends Service
25 Committee, among many other contributions as a human rights activist; and

26 WHEREAS, as a strong promoter of art and culture, Ed served as a Trustee of Atlanta's High
27 Museum of Art for many years, encouraging the collection of African and African American
28 art and the establishment of the David C. Driskell Prize, the first national award to honor
29 contributions to the field of African American art and art history; and

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

33 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Eddie Charles Brown, Jr., will long be
34 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and this loyal son, brother,
35 husband, father, grandfather, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
36 knowing him.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 join in honoring the life and memory of Eddie Charles Brown, Jr., and express their deepest
39 and most sincere regret at his passing.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Eddie Charles Brown, Jr.