

## House Resolution 1678

By: Representatives James of the 135<sup>th</sup> and Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Curtis Lee Atkinson and inviting him to be recognized by the House of  
2 Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Curtis Lee Atkinson served on the United States Senate staff as an  
4 administrative assistant to Senator Herman Talmadge from 1969 to 1981, becoming the first  
5 African American since Reconstruction to serve on the Senator's staff; and

6 WHEREAS, in providing constituent services for Senator Talmadge, Mr. Atkinson worked  
7 with numerous government agencies, including the Small Business Administration, the  
8 Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Economic Development Administration  
9 of the Department of Agriculture, and the State Farm Home Administration; and

10 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in establishing enabling legislation and funding for  
11 Morehouse Medical School, successfully coordinated funding for Morris Brown College, and  
12 secured funds for churches in Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, and Macon as well as for a senior  
13 nursing home in Brunswick and a doctors' health complex in Albany; and

14 WHEREAS, he was appointed by Georgia's Secretary of State, Max Cleland, to serve as  
15 Georgia's Assistant Secretary of State on January 11, 1983, becoming the first African  
16 American to hold the position, and served as chairman of Cleland's Agency Task Force on  
17 Economic Development; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Atkinson was appointed as state deputy director for the State of Georgia  
19 in 1996 after Max Cleland won the Democratic United States Senate seat, retired from the  
20 federal government in 2001, and was later appointed secretary of Senator Cleland's  
21 Campaign Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, a native of Brunswick, Georgia, Mr. Atkinson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree  
23 from Fort Valley State College and a master's degree from Columbia University; and

24 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
25 States Army; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Atkinson is united in love and marriage to his wife of over 42 years, Dr.  
27 Melvis Evans Atkinson; and

28 WHEREAS, he is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the  
29 Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service in 1973, the Outstanding Service in  
30 Government Award in 1975, the Award for Outstanding Service to Black Health Care in  
31 1976, the Leadership Atlanta Award in 1985, and the Presidential Achievement Award in  
32 1986 and 1987; and

33 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body express its appreciation to Mr. Atkinson for the great  
34 credit he reflects on his community and this state.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body commend the many outstanding accomplishments of Curtis Lee  
37 Atkinson and his over 30 years of dedicated service to the State of Georgia and the United  
38 States Senate and invite him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and  
39 time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Curtis Lee Atkinson.