

House Resolution 1692

By: Representative Waites of the 60th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Ms. Geri Chatmon; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, a devoted activist for most of her childhood, Ms. Geri Chatmon never shied
3 from the challenges of the time; and
- 4 WHEREAS, she walked side-by-side with such notables as the Reverends Jesse Jackson, Al
5 Sharpton, and the late Dr. William Augustus Jones, Jr.; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she moved to Atlanta in 1972 where she continued her work in Civil Rights by
7 working with the community council of the Atlanta area, the late community activist Ella
8 Mae Brayboy, and Reverend Hosea Williams as he began his movement to Feed the Hungry;
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, Ms. Chatmon led the effort with the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund to collect
11 the data and signatures needed to successfully win a lawsuit against a local power company
12 for their years of discrimination; and
- 13 WHEREAS, she began working with the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women
14 in 1974 when Governor Jimmy Carter established the organization to study the problem of
15 rape in the State of Georgia; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Ms. Chatmon worked tirelessly, assisting in the research and editing of the final
17 report of the findings which resulted in the establishment of the first rape crisis center in
18 Georgia at Grady Memorial Hospital; and
- 19 WHEREAS, she joined the United States Army Reserve with the 10th Psychological
20 Operations Unit out of Fort Gillem where she served for 11 years, rising to the rank of
21 Sergeant, Unit Clerk, and Record Specialist; and

22 WHEREAS, during her time in the Reserve, Ms. Chatmon successfully started and ran her
23 own business, University Typing Service, which provided typing services to all five schools
24 of the Atlanta University Center; and

25 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to Hal Lamar and through this union
26 adopted and committed her life to raising his remarkable daughter, Anita Marie; and

27 WHEREAS, a well-known writer, poet, and story teller, Ms. Chatmon's poem "Collard
28 Greens" was selected and published in *Leaves of Greens: The Collard Poems*; and she wrote
29 and produced a play entitled *Followers of the Way*, which was performed at the Greater New
30 Light Missionary Baptist Church; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the accomplishments of this
32 distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend Ms. Geri Chatmon for her life's work on behalf of Civil
35 Rights and extend to her their best wishes for continued health, happiness, and success.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Geri Chatmon.