

## House Resolution 2188

By: Representatives Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Talton of the 145<sup>th</sup>, O`Neal of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, and Smith of the 168<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending the History Makers of Houston, Georgia, who helped to make  
2 the Honorable Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Ph.D. a great leader and person; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, during her youth, Roberta Abdul-Salaam was fortunate enough to be raised by  
5 a strong grandmother, Mrs. Beatrice Wimberly, who was affectionately called Ms. Bee by  
6 everybody in the community; and

7 WHEREAS, her grandmother was involved in the school PTAs, local chapters of the  
8 Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the National Association for the  
9 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), served as recording secretary of Mt. Olive  
10 Baptist Church, and many more community activities and civic organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, for every holiday Ms. Abdul-Salaam's grandmother coordinated fun events for  
12 all the youth in the community, she led by example, firm but loving and compassionate, she  
13 never allowed any one she knew to go hungry; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Bee had four daughters, Meloneaze, Ruth, Ella, and Inez, and was a  
15 surrogate mother to many more; and when Ms. Abdul-Salaam's mother passed away in 1961,  
16 Ms. Bee stopped working outside the home and dedicated her life to raising Roberta  
17 Abdul-Salaam, her sister Shelia, and her brother Theodore; in total she raised 13  
18 grandchildren and even though she had little income, none of the children ever lacked  
19 anything they needed; and

20 WHEREAS, other persons that played a significant role in the life of Roberta Abdul-Salaam  
21 were key leaders in her community of Warner Robins in Houston County, Georgia,  
22 including: Mrs. Ada Lee, activist, educational political leader, and personal mentor; Mr. Silas  
23 Smith, a surrogate father, President of Houston County SCLC, businessman, political leader,

24 and a major leader in the Civil Rights Movement, working with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
25 and Andrew Young; and

26 WHEREAS, another person who had a significant impact on the life of Roberta  
27 Abdul-Salaam Senator was Senator Sam Nunn, the first people's political campaign she had  
28 worked on as a teenager and he never forgot her answering her call for help in 1982 on a  
29 military matter in Adana, Turkey; and

30 WHEREAS, other important and prominent figures are Mr. Oscar Thomie, Houston County  
31 NAACP President and a very effective leader and civic organizer; Mrs. Kathleen Bynum,  
32 one of the first black businesswomen to influence the life of Roberta Abdul-Salaam;  
33 Reverend Willie Joe Johnson, Boy Scout leader, civic organizer, and activist; Mr. & Mrs.  
34 Oliver Garmon; Mrs. Ruby Richardson, RNT Funeral Home; Mrs. Nancy Green; Mr. Sammy  
35 Nelson; Mr. Eddie Lee Sanders; Senior Master Sergeant Jerrie Woods; Mrs. Annie Laura  
36 Clarington; Mrs. Pearl Colbert; Mr. Larry Holmes; Freeman and Billy Colbert; Reverend  
37 Donald Jordan; Mr. Alton Maddox, a teacher who impacted so many young lives at the  
38 recreation center; Dan and Sara Pearl Lawson; Mrs. Rosa Mae Tharpe; Reverend Harold  
39 Rawls, Pastor of Springfield Baptist Church; Deacon Artis Wilson; and County  
40 Commissioner Mr. Houston Porter, the first black elected official in Houston County; and

41 WHEREAS, the Honorable Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Ph.D. was also greatly influenced by her  
42 fellow classmates who are currently holding major leadership roles, including: Reverend Josh  
43 Kirvin, Pastor of First Baptist Church; Reverend Charlie Blackmon; Reverend Melvin  
44 Womack; Reverend Jackie & Sharon Garmon who runs an Encouragement Ministry; national  
45 athlete James Brooks, of the NFL; national athletes Ron Simmons and DeWayne "the Rock"  
46 Johnson who were the first black champion wrestlers in the WWF; and his brother, Dr.  
47 Bobby Simmons, M.D.; Mrs. Patricia French, international fashion and fragrance  
48 entrepreneur; and Wanda Garmon, surgical nurse; and

49 WHEREAS, all of these people from her home have led the Honorable Roberta  
50 Abdul-Salaam, Ph.D. on her path and guided her as she currently walks ahead and although  
51 many of the elders are now deceased, she will cherish each and every one of these many  
52 heroes that mentored her life; and

53 WHEREAS, the Honorable Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Ph.D. is a lady of great honor, integrity,  
54 compassion, and honesty, and these strong characteristics and service to the Georgia General

55 Assembly are only possible due to dedication and love of the great History Makers of  
56 Houston, Georgia.

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
58 the members of this body join in honoring and commending the great History Makers of  
59 Houston, Georgia, who helped to make the Honorable Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Ph.D. a strong  
60 leader and person.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
62 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable Roberta  
63 Abdul-Salaam, Ph.D.