

## House Resolution 151EX

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52<sup>nd</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Sims of the 169<sup>th</sup>, James of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing regret at the passing of legendary Braves broadcaster and Braves Hall of Famer  
2 Mr. Ernie Johnson, Sr.; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia recently lost one of its most distinguished citizens with the  
4 passing of Mr. Ernie Johnson, Sr., on August 12, 2011, at the age of 87; and

5 WHEREAS, Ernie Johnson began his baseball career pitching for nine years in the major  
6 leagues, including eight years with the Braves organization, both in Boston and Milwaukee,  
7 where the highlight of his career was pitching in three games in the 1957 World Series  
8 championship win over the New York Yankees, putting up a 1.29 ERA; and

9 WHEREAS, the gentle-voiced and kind-hearted Ernie Johnson then spent more than 35 years  
10 broadcasting Braves games, beginning in 1962 when he was hired as the color commentator  
11 for the Milwaukee Braves, and was the only broadcaster who moved with the team to Atlanta  
12 in 1966; and

13 WHEREAS, for many Braves fans, he was the "voice of the Braves," although he maintained  
14 that all the broadcasters were the voices of the Braves; and

15 WHEREAS, Hall of Famer Henry "Hank" Aaron once said of him, "Ernie has a homey  
16 easy-going manner, and the fans feel like he is their friend, the kind of gentleman that lives  
17 next door"; and

18 WHEREAS, he broadcasted full-time for the Braves until 1990 before working on a  
19 part-time basis through 1999. He was inducted into the Braves Hall of Fame in 2001 and the  
20 Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in 2010; and

21 WHEREAS, he had a heart for others, a kindness that led him to befriend a kid named Ricky  
22 Haygood who was paralyzed with a football injury, and the two maintained a lifelong

23 friendship; he also showed this kindness during his broadcasts by acknowledging those who  
24 were shut-in and could not attend games, and he worked at Enable of Georgia helping  
25 special-needs adults lead productive lives; and

26 WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving family, including his wife of 63 years, Lois; his  
27 children Dawn, Chris, and Ernie, Jr.; and seven grandchildren; and

28 WHEREAS, in his eulogy for his father's funeral, Ernie Johnson, Jr., cited Bible verses from  
29 Galatians and II Timothy and said, "I have no doubts where the right-hander is today ... and  
30 I'm sure he's heard the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body express regret at the passing of Mr. Ernie Johnson, Sr., and convey  
33 their condolences to his loving family and friends.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Ernie  
36 Johnson, Sr.