

House Resolution 41

By: Representatives Brooks of the 55th and Holmes of the 129th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Gwendolyn Cherry Marks; 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 Mrs. Gwendolyn Cherry Marks on June 19, 2012; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Marks was born in Monticello, Georgia, on September 17, 1933, the
- 5 beloved daughter of Thomas and Eliza Jordan Cherry and was a long-time member of St.
- 6 James A.M.E. Church; and
- 7 WHEREAS, she was raised by her grandparents, Charlie and Nannie Lee Jordan, and her
- 8 father and stepmother, Inez Cherry, and educated in the Jasper County Public School System;
- 9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, a graduate of Mathers School for Women in South Carolina, Mrs. Marks
- 11 attended Fort Valley State College Nursing Program and dedicated 24 years to Georgia
- 12 Pacific, where she was affectionately known as "Grandma"; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Marks was united in love and marriage to the late Willie James Marks and
- 14 was blessed with the love and support of her remarkable children, Jacqueline Smith, Ethel
- 15 Jones, Loraine and Lucius Pitts, Margaret Gilmore, Enrickie and Christina Jackson, Willie
- 16 Mae Barkley, Rosemary Tinsley, Betty and Larry Thurman, Larry Marks, and Joanne Ellis;
- 17 and
- 18 WHEREAS, in addition to her children and stepmother, she leaves behind many who will
- 19 cherish her memory, including Joe Ridley, Doris Moore, Beverly Thomas, Wilhelmina
- 20 Jackson, LaNorris Jones, Gregory Saulsberry, and her many grandchildren, great-
- 21 grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

22 WHEREAS, a community leader, Mrs. Marks was an honorary member of the Georgia
23 Association of Black Elected Officials; and

24 WHEREAS, she gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep concern
25 for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she demonstrated to
26 her family and friends were admired by others; and

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Mrs. Marks will long be remembered
28 for her love of professional basketball, the Lakers, her family, and friendship, and this loyal
29 mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
30 knowing her.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Gwendolyn Cherry
33 Marks and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

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 Mrs.
36 Gwendolyn Cherry Marks.