

House Resolution 89

By: Representative Brooks of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend R. B. Cottonreader, Jr.; 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 Reverend R. B. Cottonreader, Jr., on December 31, 2012; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Cottonreader was born on July 14, 1931, in Dallas County, Texas;
5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding dedication to facilitating social change through the
7 Southern Civil Rights Movement, Reverend Cottonreader spent the majority of his life
8 dedicating his time and energy to making his country a better place by fighting against
9 oppression; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Reverend Cottonreader worked with Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in
11 San Francisco in 1964 right before horrific television images of police brutality against
12 African American women and children inspired him to relocate to Selma, Alabama, where
13 he could better serve the Civil Rights Movement; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Reverend Cottonreader's incredible conviction would immediately be
15 recognized as he was hired as a field staff member of the Southern Christian Leadership
16 Conference (SCLC); and
- 17 WHEREAS, in 1965, as part of the SCLC's Summer Community Organization and Political
18 Education (SCOPE) project, Reverend Cottonreader traveled to Greenville, Alabama, where
19 he and three other SCOPE leaders would create the legend of the "Cottonreader Chinaberry
20 Tree," a tree under which hopeful disciples would stand while Reverend Cottonreader
21 conducted mass meetings encouraging them to register to vote after local ministers refused
22 to allow the SCOPE project leaders to use their church space; and

23 WHEREAS, he was widely recognized for his original community organization strategies,
24 his willingness to take on any assignment, and his commitment to nonviolent means of
25 resistance and change; and

26 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Reverend Cottonreader attended Turner
27 Theological Seminary and became an ordained minister, a skill he used to lead an AME
28 congregation in North Georgia and then later to serve as a minister at St. Paul AME Worship
29 Center in Lithonia, Georgia; and

30 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Tomiko Isijimo and blessed with a
31 remarkable son, Terry M. Cottonreader; and

32 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
33 for integrity, intelligence, service, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his
34 life, he made this world a better place in which to live.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend R. B.
37 Cottonreader, Jr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reverend R.
40 B. Cottonreader, Jr.