

## House Resolution 396

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>, and Henson of the 86<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Charles Wittenstein and inviting his family members to be  
2 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
4 with the passing of Charles Wittenstein on February 4, 2013, at the age of 85; and

5 WHEREAS, he spent more than 20 years working for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai  
6 B'rith southern regional office in Atlanta, Georgia, making significant contributions to the  
7 organization in order to end discrimination; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Brooklyn, New York, he earned his undergraduate degree from  
9 Columbia University and graduate degree from Columbia Law School; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1952, he married Elinor Heyman and moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to work for  
11 his father-in-law's law firm; and

12 WHEREAS, later, he went to work for the American Jewish Committee and the ADL, from  
13 which he retired in 1994; and

14 WHEREAS, there was a number of civil rights issues on which he worked, but one of his  
15 biggest was successfully obtaining a pardon for Leo Frank, a man wrongly accused and  
16 convicted of raping and murdering a 13 year-old girl; and

17 WHEREAS, this distinguish gentleman also served on the Atlanta Charter Commission in  
18 the 1970s and changed the face of Atlanta's government; and

19 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, three beloved children, and six loving grandchildren;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Charles Wittenstein left the world with a philosophy that it is every person's  
22 responsibility to stand up when they see injustice, and this compassionate, jovial, and  
23 dedicated crusader for human rights will be missed by all who had the great fortune of  
24 knowing him.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Charles Wittenstein,  
27 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing, and invite his family members  
28 to be recognized by the House of Representatives on a date and time designated by the  
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Charles  
32 Wittenstein.