

House Resolution 763

By: Representative Kidd of the 145th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Willie Julian "Bill" Usery, Jr., and inviting him to be recognized by the House
2 of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in a career spanning over seven decades, Willie Julian "Bill" Usery, Jr., has
4 established a reputation as the nation's top labor-management mediator and has worked
5 throughout his life as a tireless advocate for the working people of America; and

6 WHEREAS, he was born in Hardwick, Georgia on December 21, 1923, and thanks to his
7 parents' hard work and sacrifice, he was able to graduate from Georgia Military College in
8 1940; and

9 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
10 States Navy as an underwater welder, courageously protecting his fellow Americans during
11 World War II and receiving his first positive exposure to the world of trade unionism; and

12 WHEREAS, after returning to Georgia and learning of the opposition to a union organizing
13 drive, he agreed to serve as a local leader in that drive and, in 1950, joined the Machinists
14 Union Local 918 in Macon, Georgia, as a founding member and president; and

15 WHEREAS, due to his outstanding work at Cape Canaveral, Florida, President Kennedy
16 appointed him to the President's Missile Sites Labor Committee, President Nixon selected
17 him to serve as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Labor Management Services and,
18 subsequently, as the National Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service,
19 and President Ford appointed him as a Special Assistant to the President and, in 1976, as
20 Secretary of Labor; and

21 WHEREAS, after his work in government, he founded Bill Usery Associates but remained
22 on call to presidents who needed assistance in resolving conflicts; and

23 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman also found the time to give back to the community,
24 creating the Bill Usery Labor Management Relations Foundation, renamed the Usery
25 Foundation, which supports nonprofit efforts to improve the American workplace, provides
26 scholarships and awards for promising students of Georgia Military College, assisted miners
27 in the coal regions of the former Soviet Union with safety and health issues, and supported
28 the endowment of the W.J. Usery, Jr. Center for the Workplace at Georgia State University;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Bill holds honorary doctorate degrees from Georgia State University, the
31 University of Louisville, North Alabama State University, and Southeastern University and
32 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Georgia Military College in 1971, and he
33 is one of only four Distinguished Executive Fellows at Georgia State University.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend Willie Julian "Bill" Usery, Jr., and invite him to be
36 recognized by the House of Representatives on a date and time designated by the Speaker
37 of the House of Representatives.

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 Willie Julian "Bill" Usery,
40 Jr.