

## House Resolution 1190

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 136<sup>th</sup>, O`Neal of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Representative Calvin Smyre for his induction into the International Civil  
2 Rights Walk of Fame; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Friday, January 24, 2014, Representative Calvin Smyre will be added to the  
4 International Civil Rights Walk of Fame during the tenth annual Trumpet Awards at the  
5 Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site; and

6 WHEREAS, the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame was created in 2004 to give  
7 recognition to the foot soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a  
8 reality for all; Ms. Xernona Clayton, founder and executive producer of the Trumpet Awards,  
9 states, "This walk of fame tells a phenomenal story about the legacy of this nation. It is a  
10 permanent testimony to those who have dedicated themselves to progress of our people and  
11 to this nation"; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Fort Valley  
13 State University (FVSU), majoring in business administration with a minor in accounting;  
14 and he serves as chairman of the FVSU Foundation Board of Trustees and is a former  
15 national president of the FVSU National Alumni Association; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre acted as a community organizer and director of the "War  
17 on Poverty" program in Columbus, Georgia, and currently serves as the executive  
18 vice president of Corporate External Affairs at Synovus Financial Corp.; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre was elected at the age of 27, and he is now a 40 year  
20 legislative veteran, Dean of the House, and serves on the most important panels of the House:  
21 Appropriations, Rules, and Higher Education; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has paved the way for civil rights in his community and  
23 abroad and has a distinguished legislative record; while serving as Floor Leader, he authored

24 the legislation making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, birthday a state holiday and the  
25 legislation creating the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons; and he was also  
26 instrumental in passing the HOPE constitutional amendment and was co-sponsor of the  
27 HOPE Scholarship Program and the historic legislation creating a new Georgia State Flag;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, nationally, he is the immediate past president of the National Black Caucus of  
30 State Legislators Foundation, and he is also a former member of the Financial Services  
31 Roundtable and Democratic National Committee; and

32 WHEREAS, when inducted into the Walk of Fame, Representative Smyre will join one of  
33 the most prestigious lists of honorees in the nation, including former United States Presidents  
34 Lyndon B. Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton; civil rights era heroes Reverend David  
35 Abernathy, Sr., Medgar Evers, and Justice Thurgood Marshall; and many others.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body recognize the many contributions of civil rights progress advanced  
38 by Representative Calvin Smyre and commend him for being inducted into the International  
39 Civil Rights Walk of Fame.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative Calvin  
42 Smyre.