

House Resolution 1838

By: Representative Epps of the 132nd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Willie James "Bubba" Easter; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens,
3 Willie James "Bubba" Easter; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Willie Easter was born on October 31, 1926, to Rose Atkinson and Jim Huntley
5 in LaGrange, Georgia, where he lived his entire life; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was a self-educated man and at a very young age began to work as the
7 personal assistant to John Whitley, a prominent, multimillionaire Troup County business
8 owner and CEO of Whitley Construction Company, which paved many of the roads in
9 LaGrange and throughout the State of Georgia; and
- 10 WHEREAS, this journey would lead Willie Easter on many travels and place him in the
11 company of many great leaders on the local, state, and national levels, including President
12 Franklin Delano Roosevelt and former Georgia Governor Eugene Talmadge; and
- 13 WHEREAS, many of his adventures and experiences are featured in the book *Concrete John:
14 The Life of John E. Whitley, Jr.* by Pam Pope Cavender and in articles in the *LaGrange Daily
15 News* and *Troup County News* entitled "Willie James 'Bubba' Easter, A Man of History"; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Willie Easter worked for Whitley Construction Company until Mr. Whitley's
17 death in 1978, after which Willie engaged in entrepreneurship and started his own janitorial
18 and courier service in LaGrange, where his clients included West Georgia Collection
19 Agency, St. Paul Baptist Church, Crocket Brothers Towing, and Magic Touch Hair Salon;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, this amazing gentleman was known for his integrity and impeccable work ethic
22 throughout Troup County, and he was one of its most respected African American citizens;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, on April 10, 1948, Willie Easter married the love of his life, Aurelia Holiday,
25 and they would go on to build a life of love for the next 65 years raising six beautiful
26 children, ten grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren; and

27 WHEREAS, Willie Easter was a lifelong member of St. Paul Baptist Church serving as a
28 trusted member of the Finance Committee; and

29

30 WHEREAS, Willie Easter was a humble man, and his quiet, charitable acts of giving
31 benefited an untold number of citizens in the Troup County community; and

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33 WHEREAS, he worked every day until his health began to decline in his 87th year of life;
34 he would fight the good fight until his course was completed, and he went home to be with
35 the Lord early Sunday morning on December 1, 2013; and

36 WHEREAS, Willie Easter leaves a tremendous legacy for his wife, children, grandchildren,
37 and great-grandchildren; and

38 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
39 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
40 made this world a better place in which to live; and

41 WHEREAS, Willie Easter will be greatly missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing
42 him but especially by his wife, Aurelia Easter; his children, Willie Mae Dixon, Linda Easter
43 Brown, Sharon Bailey, Debra Dabney, and Robert Easter; and his grandchildren,
44 great-grandchildren, and remaining family and loved ones.

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
46 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Willie James "Bubba"
47 Easter and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Willie James
50 "Bubba" Easter.