

House Resolution 1926

By: Representatives Willard of the 51st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Ralston of the 7th, Martin of the 49th, Riley of the 50th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commemorating the life and memory of Mr. Randolph Thrower; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Randolph Thrower was born on September 5, 1913, and was the son of
4 Benjamin Key Thrower Jr. and Ora Hammond of Tampa, Florida; and

5 WHEREAS, he was a leader in virtually every endeavor of his long and active life, which
6 included a remarkable legal career and a dedication to public service; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Thrower was a devoted family man with a gentle sense of humor, a deep
8 reverence for the natural world, and a joyous and generative approach to life; and

9 WHEREAS, he attended Georgia Military Academy where he won many awards, including
10 "Best Drilled Cadet"; and

11 WHEREAS, he graduated from Emory College, class of 1934, and Emory Law School, class
12 of 1936; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Thrower then joined the law firm of Sutherland, Tuttle & Brennan in 1936
14 and was a proud partner at Sutherland until his death; and

15 WHEREAS, he was a persistent advocate for his clients, renowned for his thorough
16 preparation of legal arguments and his mastery of the facts; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Thrower and his wife, Margaret Logan Munroe, were married in 1939 and
18 lived their romance for the following 70 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Thrower joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1942 and was then
20 deployed to the Philippines and Okinawa as a captain in the Marine Corps in 1943; and

21 WHEREAS, he was president of Atlanta Legal Aid Society in 1953, and in 1983 led its
22 groundbreaking and successful appeal for funds from Atlanta lawyers and law firms; and

23 WHEREAS, he was president of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta in 1954; and

24 WHEREAS, he was a founding member of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under
25 Law, which honored him with its 1997 Segal-Tweed Founders Award; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Thrower was a leader in the American Bar Association, serving as
27 chairman of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation and for 17 years as a member
28 of its House of Delegates; and

29 WHEREAS, he was also president of the American Bar Foundation and a member of
30 American Bar Association's Ignition Commission on the Status of Women in the Profession;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, in 1993, the American Bar Association awarded Randolph Thrower the
33 American Bar Association Medal, its highest honor, for exceptionally distinguished service
34 by a lawyer to the cause of American jurisprudence, saying: he "set a standard to which all
35 lawyers can aspire. His unique combination of advocacy conscience and leadership provide
36 a powerful moral force for all who know him"; and

37 WHEREAS, he was a founding member of Northside United Methodist Church, where he
38 taught adult Sunday school for decades; and

39 WHEREAS, he served for years as a trustee of Emory University and was chairman of the
40 board of Wesleyan College; and

41 WHEREAS, Mr. Thrower led the Georgia Wilderness Institute as its first chair, as it built
42 facilities to provide alternatives to incarceration for delinquent youth; and

43 WHEREAS, he became active in the fledgling Georgia Republican Party, as he was eager
44 to fight the entrenched arch-segregationists and the unfair county unit system; and

45 WHEREAS, in 1969, he was appointed commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service by
46 President Richard Nixon; and

47 WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1992, Mr. Thrower served as chair of the City of Atlanta's Board
48 of Ethics and was co-chair of an investigation into allegations of cheating on police
49 promotion exams; his integrity, courage, and fairness in these and other matters have been
50 widely recognized and applauded; and

51 WHEREAS, Randolph Thrower has received many accolades, including honorary degrees
52 from Emory University and Wesleyan College, the American Inns of Court Professionalism
53 Award for the Eleventh Circuit, the Leadership Award of the Atlanta Bar Association, the
54 Founders Award of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the John Wesley
55 Award from Reinhardt College, the Lifetime Anti-Defamation League Achievement Award,
56 a special tribute from the Atlanta Legal Aid Society on its 75th anniversary, and the
57 Coverdell Good Government Award; and

58 WHEREAS, Mr. Randolph Thrower died peacefully at home on March 8, 2014, having
59 recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
61 the members of this body honor and commemorate the life and memory of Mr. Randolph
62 Thrower and express their appreciation for the achievement and character displayed over his
63 lifetime.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
65 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Randolph
66 Thrower.