

## House Resolution 589

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 55<sup>th</sup>, and Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of John William Perdeu and recognizing March 22, 2015, as  
2 John William Perdeu Day; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, John William Perdeu was born March 22, 1942, in Los Angeles, California,  
4 and after completing his junior year at Harvard, he joined the civil rights movement, working  
5 with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in southwest Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, he and his first wife, Amanda Bowens Perdeu, participated in many civil rights  
7 demonstrations to achieve equal rights for all citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, he and his wife, Patricia, also a civil rights veteran, have worked together in  
9 accumulating copies of news articles supporting the collection of stories of participants in  
10 the civil rights movement; and

11 WHEREAS, on October 14, 2005, John Perdeu performed a one-man play based on his life  
12 experiences in the struggle for civil rights in southwest Georgia that focuses on the history  
13 of the civil rights movement during the 1960's and recounts the three months Mr. Perdeu  
14 spent in jail as one of the "Americus Four" who was charged with insurrection and faced the  
15 death penalty in Americus, Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, in performing the one-man play, it is the intent that venues around the country  
17 will benefit projects and organizations that are carrying on the struggle for racial justice,  
18 education, and community development; and

19 WHEREAS, he spent the last years of his life alongside Patricia helping young people in the  
20 Westview neighborhood in Southwest Atlanta, including feeding them in their house,  
21 working with the youth in the community garden, assisting with the Westview Summer  
22 Solstice Celebration, and coordinating a summer STEAM day camp out of their house; and

23 WHEREAS, he wrote over \$50 million in grants for grassroots organizations over his  
24 lifetime so that they could continue to make an impact in underserved communities; and

25 WHEREAS, he will be remembered for his wonderful spirit, his strength, and his ability to  
26 make a difference; and

27 WHEREAS, John Perdew was extremely caring, always had time to help others, and was a  
28 positive influence in all of the lives he touched.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of John William Perdew and  
31 recognize March 22, 2015, as John William Perdew Day in remembrance of his dedication  
32 to the City of Atlanta and to the achievement of equal rights for all citizens.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
35 family of John William Perdew.