

House Resolution 842

By: Representatives Brooks of the 55th and Thomas of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Barrow; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of the United States' most
3 distinguished citizens with the passing of Reverend Willie Barrow on March 12, 2015; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Barrow was born in Burton, Texas, where she joined the fight
5 for equality at a young age by demanding to be allowed to ride in an all-white school bus;
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, she tirelessly fought for equality for many decades and helped organize sit-ins
8 and boycotts throughout the South with Civil Rights icons such as Dr. Martin Luther King,
9 Jr., Rosa Parks, and Reverend Ralph Abernathy; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Barrow served as a field organizer for Dr. Martin Luther King,
11 Jr., and marched on Washington and Selma in the 1960s, and more recently this
12 distinguished lady focused on solving the problem of Chicago's gun violence and changes
13 to the Voting Rights Act; and
- 14 WHEREAS, she studied theology in the State of Oregon before moving to Chicago, Illinois,
15 where she co-founded the Chicago chapter of Operation Breadbasket with Reverend Jesse
16 Jackson and took up causes ranging from women's rights to AIDS awareness; and
- 17 WHEREAS, throughout her life, Reverend Willie Barrow traveled widely on missions of
18 peace and outreach, including trips to Vietnam, Russia, Nicaragua, Cuba, and South Africa;
19 and
- 20 WHEREAS, she was known to many in Chicago as “godmother” or “mother” because she
21 served as a mentor and inspiration to many young activists and helped advise and inform
22 them on the challenges that they would face; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Willie Barrow was a front-line civil rights fighter and a mentor to
24 younger generations of activists, and this dedicated and distinguished lady will long be
25 remembered for the positive impact she made on this nation by those who had the great
26 fortune of knowing her.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Barrow
29 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 family of Reverend Willie Barrow.