

House Resolution 848

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, McClain of the 100th, and Brooks of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Othello Nelson "Chico" Renfroe, Sr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Othello Nelson "Chico" Renfroe, Sr., on September 3, 1991; and

5 WHEREAS, Chico Renfroe was born on March 1, 1923, in Newark, New Jersey, a beloved
6 son of Reverend Willie and Emma Renfroe; and

7 WHEREAS, he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Georgia,
8 where he was a baseball, basketball, and football star, and attended Clark College before
9 beginning his career in professional baseball; and

10 WHEREAS, Chico Renfroe, who played professional baseball for ten years with such
11 legends as Jackie Robinson and Satchel Paige, was known for his base stealing and his role
12 on Satchel Paige's All-Star team; and

13 WHEREAS, he retired from professional baseball and worked for the United States Postal
14 Service in Atlanta, Georgia, before following his dream to return to professional sports as a
15 commentator for WERD in 1963; and

16 WHEREAS, Chico Renfroe became the voice of Atlanta high school and Atlanta University
17 Center sports in 1964 with WIGO, where he broadcast WIGO's high school and college
18 football "Games of the Week"; and

19 WHEREAS, while employed at WIGO, he broadcast as many as six shows each day,
20 drawing upon his ten years of playing in the Negro League with the Atlanta Black Crackers,
21 Monarchs, and Cleveland Buckeyes; and

22 WHEREAS, he was named 1970 Sportscaster of the Year by the *Associated Press* and made
23 history by serving as the first African American official scorer in major league baseball with
24 the Atlanta Braves; and

25 WHEREAS, Chico Renfroe was an unyielding advocate of giving Atlanta University Center
26 schools their due coverage, and his last play-by-play broadcast was of a Morris Brown and
27 Clark Atlanta football game; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a strong supporter of academics and sports in the Atlanta Public School
29 System, where he touched the lives of many people, and he will always be remembered as
30 a loving husband and dedicated father not only to his six sons, but also to all the young
31 people whose lives he influenced; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Othello Nelson "Chico" Renfroe, Sr., will
33 long be remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, and
34 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Othello Nelson "Chico"
37 Renfroe, Sr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 family of Othello Nelson "Chico" Renfroe, Sr.