

House Resolution 915

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Jones of the 53rd, and Brooks of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Marvin R. Meriwether and recognizing April 12, 2015, as Marvin R.
2 Meriwether Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Marvin R. Meriwether was born on April 5, 1938, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Julia
4 Worthy; and

5 WHEREAS, he was educated in the Atlanta Public School System, having attended former
6 Rockdale Elementary and Henry McNeal Turner High Schools, graduating in the top 10
7 percent of his class; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Meriwether was a member of the trumpet section of the H.M. Turner High
9 School Wolves Marching and Concert Bands, later being awarded a music scholarship to
10 Clark College to play in both the marching and concert bands; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Meriwether obtained a position working with Sears, Roebuck, and
12 Company, in 1958, at the Ponce de Leon store before being drafted to serve for two years in
13 the United States Army in 1961; and

14 WHEREAS, upon returning to Sears, Roebuck, and Company, Mr. Meriwether, during the
15 height of the Civil Rights Movement, began to ascend to various levels in his career,
16 accomplishing an unprecedented succession of "African American Firsts," including being
17 promoted to the position of salesman and manager of the Candy Department; and

18 WHEREAS, Marvin R. Meriwether resigned from his position from Sears, Roebuck, and
19 Company following 11 years of unequalled service to obtain his Real Estate Sales license and
20 Real Estate Brokers' license, both certified by the State of Georgia, and joined the Empire
21 Board of Realtists, Inc., an African American member owned trade organization of real
22 estate, where he served as treasurer for 11 years; and

23 WHEREAS, he received many awards as a member of the Empire Board of Realtists, Inc.,
24 including Broker of the Year in 1998; he was also a designated member of the Georgia
25 National Society of Real Estate Appraisers and served as president for two terms, earning the
26 President's Award in 1992; and

27 WHEREAS, Marvin R. Meriwether continued his work in real estate by becoming the first
28 African American commercial property appraiser, industrial appraiser, multi-family chief
29 appraiser, chief appraiser, and special property chief appraiser, having worked jointly for the
30 City of Atlanta/Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors, and retired after 25 years of service
31 in 1995; and

32 WHEREAS, Marvin R. Meriwether became the third African American to serve concurrently
33 as a fee appraiser for the Veterans' Administration for more than 30 years, and one of five
34 African Americans to serve in this capacity for the newly created Federal Housing Authority,
35 Fee Appraiser Panel in 1975; and

36 WHEREAS, in addition to the many roles he has balanced in his lucrative career, Marvin R.
37 Meriwether fell in love with and married his high school sweetheart, Lillie Brown in 1961;
38 to this union and through the years, Marvin's roles have expanded to include being a father,
39 father-in-law, grandfather, godfather, mentor, confidante, and friend to many; and

40 WHEREAS, after serving in the position of Vice Chairman for several years, he was
41 appointed in 1977 as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Beulah Baptist Church under
42 Reverend W.L. Cottrell, Sr.; he has faithfully executed the duties of this position, devoting
43 selfless and dedicated service for 37 years.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body commend Marvin R. Meriwether and recognize April 12, 2015, as
46 Marvin R. Meriwether Day the state capitol.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 public and the press.