

House Resolution 917

By: Representatives Waites of the 60th, Brooks of the 55th, Thomas of the 56th, Jones of the 53rd, and Smyre of the 135th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Maynard Eaton for his contributions to journalism; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Maynard Eaton is an award-winning journalist and media communications
3 professional with a career spanning more than three decades who is known for his work as
4 a broadcast journalist, political columnist, media and public relations consultant, freelance
5 writer and editor, journalism professor, and one of Atlanta's most influential multimedia
6 communications professionals; and

7 WHEREAS, since January of 2011, he has held the position of National Communications
8 Director and chief spokesman for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, where he
9 serves as press secretary and media relations consultant for its President, Rev. Dr. C. T.
10 Vivian; and

11 WHEREAS, he helms Eaton Media Group, a public relations consulting firm specializing
12 in writing, film and video production, and communications, and serves as Executive Editor
13 for S.E. Region News, an emerging media outlet for the Southeast region of the nation; and

14 WHEREAS, he was press secretary for 2009 Atlanta mayoral candidate Jesse Spikes and
15 deputy press secretary for former Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor, the 2006 Democratic
16 gubernatorial nominee; and

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18 WHEREAS, he served as the senior partner, co-founder, and editor-in-chief of *The*
19 *Newsmaker Journal*, a weekly online magazine with a readership of more than 40,000, and
20 was responsible for hosting its companion infotainment broadcast, the preeminent
21 live-to-webcast political talk show, *Newsmakers Live*, a first-of-its-kind journalism
22 production where prominent political and business figures are expertly interviewed; and

23 WHEREAS, he was a founding member and contributing political writer for the Georgia
24 Online News Service, a journalism professor at Clark Atlanta University, a press secretary

25 for Republican Congressional candidate, Dr. Deborah Honeycutt, and a media consultant and
26 writer for Atlanta mayoral candidate Kasim Reed; and

27 WHEREAS, since 1991, Mr. Eaton has been a political columnist for *The Atlanta Voice*,
28 Atlanta's premier African American weekly newspaper, and his award-winning column,
29 Politics 411, is provocative and informative with a readership of more than 50,000; and

30 WHEREAS, he is also a contributing writer for *The Sunday Paper*, a popular weekly
31 alternative publication, and has been a media consultant to Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin
32 and Macon Mayor C. Jack Ellis; and

33 WHEREAS, he regularly appeared as a political analyst on the Bill Campbell Morning Show
34 and was a regular panelist on Atlanta This Week, a weekly TV news talk show featuring
35 prominent Georgia journalists; and

36 WHEREAS, during the 1999 and 2000 political seasons, Mr. Eaton served as a writer and
37 media consultant for Republican presidential candidate, Steve Forbes, and was one of three
38 Atlanta journalists selected as a panelist for the televised 1998 Georgia Governor's race
39 debate and the 1997 and 2001 Atlanta mayor's debate; he also served as an Associate
40 Professor of Broadcast and Print Journalism in the Communications Department of Clark
41 Atlanta University; and

42 WHEREAS, from 1990 to 1993, Mr. Eaton served as the Southeast Bureau Chief and
43 political correspondent for Black Entertainment Television; he was a founding member of
44 the National Association of Black Journalists and former president of the Atlanta Association
45 of Black Journalists; and

46 WHEREAS, in 1988, the Georgia Democratic Party selected Mr. Eaton to write and produce
47 their video presentation welcoming all the Democrat delegates to the Atlanta Convention;
48 from 1986 to 1991, he was managing editor for *The Atlanta Tribune*, a premier
49 African American monthly business magazine, whose readership and advertising revenue
50 doubled during his tenure; he then became managing editor of World African Network, the
51 nation's first African American owned Internet news service, where he directed a 12 member
52 news team until 1998; and

53 WHEREAS, from 1978 to 1986, Mr. Eaton won multiple awards as a political reporter for
54 WXIA-TV in Atlanta; he won eight EMMY Awards for television news reporting and

55 writing while at WXIA, WPLG-TV in Miami, and WVEC-TV in Norfolk; and he has been
56 honored for his work as a political commentator for WTLK-TV and WATL-TV in Atlanta,
57 a producer and reporter for World News Monitor, southeast field producer for USA Today
58 television, and writer and talent for Ebony Journal and Prime Time, two highly regarded and
59 locally produced television magazine shows; and

60 WHEREAS, he was named 2008 Journalist of the Year by the Rainbow/PUSH civil rights
61 group; he won two Atlanta Association of Black Journalist awards for his excellence in
62 writing and reporting, including the Journalist of the Year award in 1985 from the Atlanta
63 Association of Black Journalists and several significant honors from the National Association
64 of Black Journalists; he has received honors from Communication Excellence to Black
65 Audiences and three writing awards from the Associated Press; he landed a 2nd place honor
66 with the National Newspaper Publishers Award in 2007, a coveted Gannett News Service
67 reporting award, and for ten consecutive years, has been named on the list of prestigious
68 individuals with Who's Who in Black Atlanta and has also written cover stories for that
69 prestigious publication on Ambassador Andrew Young, civil rights icon Reverend Joseph
70 Lowery, and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin; and

71 WHEREAS, he received his Master of Arts degree from Columbia University's Graduate
72 School of Journalism, where he was mentored by the late Fred Friendly, and holds a degree
73 in mass media arts from Hampton University.

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
75 the members of this body commend Maynard Eaton for his many professional and personal
76 accomplishments and recognize the great contributions he has made to journalism.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
78 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
79 Maynard Eaton.