

House Resolution 1784

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 39<sup>th</sup>, and Dawkins-Haigler of the 91<sup>st</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Walter Anthony Rodney and The Walter Rodney  
2 Foundation; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Anthony Rodney was a scholar, historian, educator, Pan-Africanist,  
4 and political activist who is recognized as one of the Caribbean's most brilliant minds and  
5 whose words resonated in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Rodney's major works illustrated his duality as an intellectual and activist  
7 as he challenged prevailing assumptions about African history, sought to attach himself to  
8 the activity of and contribute to the masses, and put forth his own models for analyzing the  
9 history of oppressed peoples; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Rodney taught about the history of Africa and the accomplishments of its  
11 people; the value of its culture and traditions; the role of elders; the benefit of the extended  
12 family; universal hospitality; the rejection of historical myths; the assertion of humanity; and  
13 the freeing, mobilizing, and uniting of minds; and

14 WHEREAS, The Walter Rodney Foundation seeks to improve lives and build capacity  
15 through scholarship and programs which promote education, health, and human development  
16 from a social justice perspective; and

17 WHEREAS, an annual symposium is held in Atlanta, Georgia, during the week of his  
18 birthday, March 23rd, to bring together scholars, researchers, activists, students, and the  
19 community to discuss contemporary issues from a Rodney perspective, and this year, the  
20 13th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium is entitled, "Youth Matters: Global Groundings";  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, youth is often described in the Pan-African world as persons under 40 years old;  
23 Dr. Rodney was officially within this recognized definition of "youth" as he was 38 years

24 old when he was assassinated, a fact that is easily overlooked considering his relatively short  
25 life; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Rodney's life and legacy are enduring examples of how youth can recognize  
27 their potential and learn new skills; study history and culture, reject historical myths, and  
28 understand historical experience; challenge social conditions and resist oppression; and  
29 possess dignity, embrace self-expression, become more powerful and confident, and have a  
30 say in their own destiny.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body recognize and commend Dr. Walter Anthony Rodney, The Walter  
33 Rodney Foundation, and the 13th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium for providing a space  
34 for youth, and those concerned about youth, to actively engage about issues that impact  
35 youth.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to The  
38 Walter Rodney Foundation.