

House Resolution 219

By: Representatives Willard of the 51st, Oliver of the 82nd, Gilliard of the 162nd, Stephens of the 165th, Abrams of the 89th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., on January 30, 2017; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., was born in Savannah, Georgia, on March 22, 1963,
5 a beloved son of Willie Jake Lovett, Sr., and Velma Bradley Russell, as the youngest of eight
6 children; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University, his Juris Doctorate
8 from Harvard University, and later a Master of Laws degree in Litigation from Emory
9 University; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., dedicated his legal career to public service,
11 beginning as a clerk for Joseph W. Hatchett, former Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit
12 Court of Appeals; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he continued his career in public service as an Assistant City Attorney with the
14 City of Atlanta Law Department and later served as Deputy County Attorney with Fulton
15 County; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., was a passionate advocate for children and in 2009
17 was appointed as Fulton County's Child Advocate Attorney, playing an instrumental role in
18 providing legal representation for children in abuse and neglect cases in response to the
19 historic *Kenny A.* ruling; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., in recognition of his dedication and skillful practice
21 of the law, was appointed to serve as a Fulton County Juvenile Court Judge in 2013; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife of 14 years, Seletha Butler,
23 Esquire, whom he met while attending Harvard Law School; and

24 WHEREAS, a brilliant and passionate man, Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr., will be remembered
25 for his integrity, commitment to public service, and passionate advocacy for Georgia's young
26 people.

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 Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr.,
29 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his 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 Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr.