

House Resolution 670

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Juanita Jones Abernathy; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, an unyielding advocate for equality and justice for all for more than 50 years,  
3 Juanita Jones Abernathy stands as a shining example of strength; and

4 WHEREAS, Juanita is the youngest of eight children born to Alex and Ella Jones of  
5 Uniontown, Alabama; and

6 WHEREAS, after she earned her bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University, she was  
7 united in love and marriage to Ralph Abernathy, a minister, professor, and civil rights leader,  
8 and they were blessed with five wonderful children; and

9 WHEREAS, as a minister's wife, Juanita became increasingly involved in the church and  
10 within community groups, expanding her activities and work to local, state, and national  
11 level civil rights organizations and events; and

12 WHEREAS, she put her belief in standing up against injustice into practice by working  
13 alongside her husband with the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
14 on a variety of causes, including voter registration for African Americans in the segregated  
15 South; and

16 WHEREAS, she played an important role in many significant historic moments, including  
17 writing the business plan for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, participating in the Albany  
18 Movement and March on Washington, speaking in place of her husband at the Selma Mass  
19 Meeting where Malcolm X also addressed the audience, and taking her position on the front  
20 line as she, and so many others, marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, during the  
21 1965 Freedom March; and

22 WHEREAS, because of her dedication to equality, she has faced many trials throughout her  
23 life, including experiencing a bomb explosion that destroyed her home, but nevertheless,  
24 Juanita has never ceased her fight for justice; and

25 WHEREAS, her advocacy extends beyond civil rights and into her work supporting a  
26 guaranteed minimum wage increase and a National Food Stamp Program, teaching and  
27 caring for the poverty-stricken children of inner-city Atlanta, and empowering women  
28 through her position as a top national sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics; and

29 WHEREAS, she has graciously and effectively served on the boards of the Fulton County  
30 Development Authority, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the  
31 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA); and

32 WHEREAS, Juanita is truly a pioneer, a maverick, an independent thinker, and a deeply  
33 spiritual woman, and she is an inspiration to women and men all over the world and it is  
34 abundantly fitting and proper that her outstanding contributions be recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body honor Juanita Jones Abernathy for her selfless and devoted pursuit  
37 of equality and justice and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued health and  
38 happiness.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
41 Juanita Jones Abernathy.