

## Senate Resolution 1155

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Sims of the 12th, Harbison of the 15th, Butler of the 55th and Orrock of the 36th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Ralph Worrell; 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 Ralph Worrell on March 19, 2018; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Ralph Worrell was born in Barbados on May 15, 1929, and later moved to New  
5 York City, where he would attend business school and begin his career as an organizer with  
6 Retail Wholesale Department Store Union (RWDSU) District 65 in Harlem, which was part  
7 of the UAW; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Ralph's career with the RWDSU led him to involvement in civil rights causes;  
9 during the early 1960s, he was inspired by hearing the "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr.  
10 Martin Luther King, Jr., and later, he received a personal charge to serve from Dr. King  
11 himself; and
- 12 WHEREAS, his work with the civil rights movement would lead him to participate in the  
13 Selma to Montgomery March and other related activities, including fundraising for the  
14 movement; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Ralph began working with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
16 (SCLC) as a labor union representative to help organize the Poor People's Campaign and,  
17 afterwards, he would officially join the SCLC in Atlanta, serving with the organization for  
18 more than 50 years; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Ralph Worrell considered himself a civil rights "foot soldier" who never gave  
20 up on his pursuit of equality for all, organizing protests against apartheid in South Africa and  
21 playing a key role in the SCLC's participation in the Million Man March and in quelling civil  
22 unrest following the Rodney King verdict; and

23 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
24 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
25 family and friends were admired by others; and

26 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
27 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he  
28 made this world a better place in which to live; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Ralph Worrell will long be remembered  
30 for his love of family and friendship and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of  
31 knowing him.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 join in honoring the life and memory of Ralph Worrell and express their deepest and most  
34 sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of  
37 Ralph Worrell.