

House Resolution 835

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, McClain of the 100th, Stovall of the 74th, Jones of the 53rd, and Beasley-Teague of the 65th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Civil Rights Activist Ms. Dorothy Bolden; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Dorothy Bolden was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended Booker T.
4 Washington High School before she became a full-time domestic worker; and

5 WHEREAS, as a domestic worker in the 1960s, Ms. Bolden and others like her would wake
6 at 4 a.m., leave home at 6 a.m., arrive at work by bus at 8 a.m., perform household duties and
7 management for 8 hours, and leave work at 4 p.m. to be home by 6 p.m. to tend to their own
8 households; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Bolden, who rode the bus daily to work, began using these settings as
10 impromptu meeting places for her and other domestic workers to discuss the long hours they
11 worked for little pay; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1968, Ms. Bolden helped start the National Domestic Workers Union of
13 America, which was not a formal union but an education and advocacy group that she led for
14 nearly three decades and that served more than 10,000 members around the country; and

15 WHEREAS, with the establishment of the National Domestic Workers Union, for the first
16 time ever there was a powerful voice working to raise workforce standards and improve
17 wages; and

18 WHEREAS, under Ms. Bolden's leadership and guidance, the National Domestic Workers
19 Union pursued national and local legislation and started job placement and training programs
20 for workers that taught workers how to diplomatically ask for vacation time and higher
21 wages; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Bolden required all members of the National Domestic Workers Union to
23 register to vote prior to joining, allowing the group to wield significant power in Atlanta and
24 Georgia politics; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to honor the life and memory
26 and the extraordinary accomplishments of Civil Rights Activist Ms. Dorothy Bolden.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Ms. Dorothy Bolden and recognize
29 the dedication and commitment to civil rights of this amazing activist.

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 Ms. Dorothy Bolden.