

House Resolution 1022

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Park of the 101st, Shannon of the 84th, Drenner of the 85th, and Wilson of the 80th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Willis Bivins; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Willis Bivins was born on January 22, 1942, in Birmingham, Alabama, to a
3 family who had lived for many years in the South; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Willis Bivins and his mother, father, and sister were forced out of Birmingham
5 due to harassment from the Ku Klux Klan as a result of his father Alfred Bivins' advocacy
6 for equal rights for all; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Willis and his family settled in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where his father
8 continued to be targeted by the Klan and even physically assaulted on occasion; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Willis graduated from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1966
10 with a degree in political science; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he immediately moved to New York City, where he worked with both United
12 Press International and the New York Times International Desk; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he became a frequent patron of the Stonewall Inn Bar, his favorite bar in the
14 city; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Willis was out of the country leading one of his many international tours on the
16 night of June 28, 1969, when reports came that the entire city transformed after the Stonewall
17 Rebellion and that while before virtually no one was openly "out," suddenly many people
18 were; and
- 19 WHEREAS, this trailblazing individual marched in the first Pride ever, the 1970 Christopher
20 Street Liberation Day march in June 1970, and his scrapbooks commemorating that march
21 now reside in the Emory University Woodruff Library; and

22 WHEREAS, Willis returned to Birmingham, Alabama, in 1971 to care for his ailing
23 widowed father and helped integrate the gay bars in Birmingham; and

24 WHEREAS, Willis moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1974, continued to lead international tours
25 all over the world, and helped co-found Atlanta Black and White Men Together, Atlanta Men
26 for All Cultures, and the Atlanta SAGE chapter.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize and commend Willis Bivins for his commitment to social
29 justice causes and his work toward seeking justice for the rights of all people.

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 Willis
32 Bivins.