

## House Resolution 1027

By: Representatives Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Scoggins of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham upon the  
2 grand occasion of his retirement; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Justice Robert Benham has long been recognized by the citizens of this state  
4 for the vital role that he has played in state government and his deep personal commitment  
5 to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,  
7 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state, as evidenced  
8 dramatically by his service as the longest serving member of the Georgia Supreme Court; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1989, Justice Benham made history as the first African American appointed  
10 to the Georgia Supreme Court in its more than 140 years of existence and proceeded to serve  
11 as chief justice from 1995 to 2001; and

12 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
13 States Army Reserve, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans and  
14 attaining the rank of captain; and

15 WHEREAS, during his impressive and accomplished career, Justice Benham has served as  
16 special assistant attorney general; president of the Bartow County Bar Association, where  
17 he served for two terms; and chairperson of the Governor's Commission on Drug Awareness  
18 and Prevention; and

19 WHEREAS, a champion of justice, he is a member of the American Judicature Society, the  
20 Lawyers' Club of Atlanta, the National Criminal Justice Association, and the Georgia Bar  
21 Foundation; and

22 WHEREAS, a highly educated man, Justice Benham earned his bachelor's degree in political  
23 science from Tuskegee University in 1967, his Juris Doctorate from the University of  
24 Georgia in 1970; and his Master of Law from the University of Virginia in 1989; and

25 WHEREAS, Justice Benham has served with honor and distinction with the Georgia  
26 Supreme Court, and his vision and unyielding commitment to justice and law will be sorely  
27 missed upon the occasion of his retirement; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
29 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body recognize and commend Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert  
32 Benham for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of  
33 Georgia; congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his retirement; and extend the most  
34 sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
37 Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham.