

House Resolution 74

By: Representatives McClain of the 109th, Hugley of the 141st, Cannon of the 58th, Bazemore of the 69th, Williams of the 168th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery was the quintessential civil rights wife, woman, and
3 warrior, remembered as a wise woman of substance who helped shape the Movement
4 alongside her lifelong husband and Civil Rights Leader, Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery; and

5 WHEREAS, understanding the often-overlooked contributions of women to the Civil Rights
6 Movement and passionately dedicating her life to correcting this lack of recognition, Dr.
7 Evelyn Gibson Lowery founded SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Inc. (Women's Organizational
8 Movement for Equality Now Inc.) in 1979 to create inter-generational programs addressing
9 health disparities, human rights, social action, and economic self-sufficiency while fostering
10 leadership development impacting women, children, and families; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery spearheaded countless groundbreaking initiatives, including the
12 establishment of the first National Conference on the Survival of the Black Family in 1980,
13 followed by a national youth conference the next year, and the creation of the Drum Major
14 for Justice Awards Banquet on April 4, 1980, to honor the contributions of others in the
15 Movement; and

16 WHEREAS, recognizing the disparities in health education and outcomes affecting African
17 Americans, Dr. Lowery championed AIDS/HIV education through conferences, sermons,
18 litanies, and other religious resources, ensuring the African American community was
19 informed and empowered to address these challenges; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1987, Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery founded the "Original" Evelyn G. Lowery
21 Civil Rights Heritage Tour, a two-day motor coach journey throughout Alabama, which
22 erected 13 monuments along the civil rights trail to honor the legacy of key leaders and
23 ensure their contributions were never forgotten; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Lowery expanded the scope of SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Inc. with initiatives such
25 as the Women's Empowerment Training Center for GED and computer training in 1988, the
26 Bridging the Gap Girls to Women mentoring program in 1995, and other programs
27 addressing the needs of the disenfranchised, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or
28 sexual orientation; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery radiated grace, quiet strength, humor, and
30 determination as she directed a team of volunteers, remaining deeply involved in every detail
31 of SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Inc.'s actions and inspiring others with her commitment to justice,
32 equity, and service; and

33 WHEREAS, her efforts and contributions as an unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement
34 continue to motivate and uplift the Board of Directors, staff, members, and supporters of
35 SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Inc. as they strive to carry forward her vision of empowerment and
36 equality; and

37 WHEREAS, on November 19, 1994, the SCLC/W.O.M.E.N. Inc. Training Center was
38 formally dedicated as a beacon of hope and a vital resource for education, empowerment, and
39 leadership development, embodying the values and vision of Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery; and

40 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to honor the extraordinary life and
41 contributions of Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery, ensuring that her spirit of service and
42 commitment to justice are celebrated for generations to come.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Dr. Evelyn Gibson Lowery and
45 express the most sincere gratitude for her unparalleled contributions to civil rights and her
46 enduring dedication to building stronger, more equitable communities.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 public and the press.