

House Resolution 237

By: Representative Au of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending John Suttles; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, John Suttles courageously participated in the historic Bloody Sunday march in
3 Selma, Alabama, on March 7, 1965, at just 16 years old, walking in pursuit of civil rights
4 alongside hundreds of peaceful demonstrators; and
- 5 WHEREAS, on the day of the march, he wore an army jacket given to him by his uncle,
6 which is now preserved and displayed at a national interpretive center; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the march, which saw 600 protesters of diverse backgrounds crossing the
8 Edmund Pettus Bridge on their way to Montgomery, stands as a defining moment in the Civil
9 Rights Movement; and
- 10 WHEREAS, despite being hospitalized as a result of the violence that took place on Bloody
11 Sunday, John Suttles remained undeterred and took part in the subsequent marches from
12 Selma to Montgomery, including the final march that began on March 21 and successfully
13 reached Montgomery on March 24, 1965; and

14 WHEREAS, the sacrifices of John Suttles and his fellow demonstrators contributed to the
15 passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was signed into law that August, securing
16 legal protections for African American voters; and

17 WHEREAS, he and his wife, Kay, now reside in Johns Creek, Georgia, where they continue
18 to inspire future generations by encouraging civic engagement through voting, political
19 participation, and public service; and

20 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high
21 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and he possesses the vast wisdom
22 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
23 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

24 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
25 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
27 remarkable individual be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize and commend John Suttles for his bravery, courage, and
30 perseverance in the face of violence as well as his contributions to racial justice and equality
31 in the United States and extend best wishes for future health and happiness.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to John
34 Suttles.