

## House Resolution 305

By: Representatives Olaleye of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Reese of the 140<sup>th</sup>, Sampson of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Crawford of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Dawson of the 65<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Richard B. Sagers; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, born on March 21, 1933, in Stockbridge, Georgia, Richard B. Sagers came of  
3 age during a time of segregation and systemic racial discrimination; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty in the United States  
5 Army's 11th Airborne Division, 188th A.I.R., as part of the first all-Black regiment to  
6 integrate Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and
- 7 WHEREAS, following his distinguished military service, he earned his commercial driver's  
8 license in 1952, yet he faced widespread racial discrimination as trucking companies  
9 systematically refused to hire Black over-the-road drivers, denying them opportunities  
10 available to their white counterparts; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in November 1969, he shattered racial barriers in the transportation industry by  
12 becoming the first Black over-the-road driver in the Southern Conference, enduring  
13 workplace hostility while opening doors for future generations of Black drivers; and

14 WHEREAS, determined to challenge systemic discrimination, he filed the landmark  
15 class-action lawsuit *Sagers v. Yellow Freight System* in 1972 under the Civil Rights Act of  
16 1964, exposing discriminatory hiring practices and securing a legal victory that helped  
17 dismantle racial inequalities in the trucking industry; and

18 WHEREAS, his courageous legal battle garnered national attention and was championed by  
19 civil rights activists, labor unions, and renowned attorneys such as Donald Hollowell, Jack  
20 Greenberg, Elizabeth Rindskopf, and William L. Robinson, setting a legal precedent for  
21 future employment discrimination cases; and

22 WHEREAS, Richard B. Sagers passed away on February 24, 1993, at the age of 59, leaving  
23 behind a legacy of courage and determination that lives on through his wife, Betty; his  
24 daughter, Veronica; and his grandchildren; and

25 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
26 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he  
27 made this world a better place in which to live.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Richard B. Sagers upon  
30 the 32nd anniversary of his passing for his historic contributions to civil rights, racial  
31 equality, and his country.

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 the  
34 family of Richard B. Sagers.