

House Resolution 405

By: Representative Beckles of the 96th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Vanise Ayanna Kilgore; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, with saddened hearts, we acknowledge the passing of a beloved soul and
3 celebrate a life well lived; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Vanise Ayanna Kilgore, affectionately known as Ayanna, departed this life on
5 February 19, 2025, in Duluth, Georgia, surrounded by the love of her family; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Ayanna was born on July 16, 1975, in Austell, Georgia, to Fletrice Blanton and
7 the late Roy Lee Watson, and from an early age, she embodied love, warmth, and a spirit of
8 servitude that endeared her to all who knew her; and
- 9 WHEREAS, she demonstrated a deep love for children and a strong commitment to faith,
10 dedicating herself to her church community through the children's ministry and youth
11 department, shaping the lives of young people with care and devotion; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Ayanna shared an unbreakable bond with her beloved brother, Nevin, and
13 together they created cherished memories that spoke to their inseparable love and sibling
14 camaraderie; and

15 WHEREAS, at the tender age of 13, Ayanna met her soulmate, Jonathan Kilgore, with whom
16 she built a life of unwavering partnership, faith, and adventure, raising their three beloved
17 children, Jonysia "Nysi," Jemarcus "Marcus," and Jadyne, and embracing the joy of
18 grand-parenthood as an adoring "Omi" to John Westley and Rohen Upshaw; and

19 WHEREAS, Ayanna's profound love for her family manifested in her fierce devotion as a
20 mother, empowering her children to achieve their dreams, supporting their ambitions, and
21 exemplifying resilience, determination, and unconditional love; and

22 WHEREAS, she was a distinguished scholar and a proud "Double Dawg," earning degrees
23 from the University of Georgia, Bob Jones University, and Kairos University, paving the way
24 for future generations through her commitment to education and mentorship; and

25 WHEREAS, Ayanna's career as an educator and entrepreneur flourished, from her early
26 teaching years in Clarke County Public Schools and Timothy Christian Academy to the
27 founding of The Little Cherubim Early Learning Facility and Pathways Educational
28 Solutions, serving as a beacon of learning and excellence in her community; and

29 WHEREAS, she extended her impact beyond borders, dedicating her time and resources to
30 mission work in Mexico, Cape Town, South Africa, and Mbabane, Eswatini, embodying a
31 life of service, love, and compassion for others; and

32 WHEREAS, Ayanna's legacy of kindness, wisdom, and faith will continue to shine in the
33 lives of all those she touched, and her memory will remain a guiding light for her family,
34 friends, and community.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body honor and celebrate the life and legacy of Vanise Ayanna Kilgore,
37 recognizing her remarkable contributions, unwavering love, and steadfast faith, and may her
38 spirit forever inspire those who follow in her footsteps.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
41 family of Vanise Ayanna Kilgore.