

## House Resolution 851

By: Representatives Martinez of the 111<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 100<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Richardson of the 125<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending and congratulating James L. Davis; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, James L. Davis was born on March 31, 1923, in Lexington, Mississippi, and  
3 this year he enjoys the rare distinction of celebrating his 102nd birthday; and
- 4 WHEREAS, as a youth, his family relocated to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was reared and  
5 educated, and in 1939, he became a member of the Paramount Golf Club, the first Black golf  
6 club west of the Mississippi; and
- 7 WHEREAS, James L. Davis served thereafter as a guardian of this nation's freedom and  
8 liberty with the United States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow  
9 Americans during World War II, receiving numerous awards for outstanding service, and  
10 retiring at the rank of Sergeant; and
- 11 WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge, he worked as a member, owner, and trainer  
12 at the Cahokia Downs and Fairmont Horse Racetracks in Illinois, gaining recognition as a  
13 trainer extraordinaire and earning distinction on the United States Field Trial Circuit; and

14 WHEREAS, during the Civil Rights Movement, James L. Davis was broadly recognized for  
15 his leadership in bringing fair housing to Black residents in St. Louis, and he continues to  
16 serve as a faithful patriarch to his church, family, and community; and

17 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high  
18 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, James L. Davis possesses the vast wisdom which only comes through  
20 experience and the strength of character which is achieved through overcoming the many  
21 challenges of life; and

22 WHEREAS, by the example James L. Davis has made of his life, he makes this world a  
23 better place in which to live, and it is only fitting and proper that he be appropriately  
24 recognized during this very special and memorable time.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body commend James L. Davis for his unselfish, dedicated, and loving  
27 service to the members of his family and community; congratulate him on the remarkable  
28 occasion of his 102nd birthday; and extend their most sincere best wishes for continued  
29 health and happiness.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to James  
32 L. Davis.