

Senate Resolution 910

By: Senators Howard of the 35th, Davenport of the 17th, Anderson of the 43rd, James of the 28th, Kemp of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy Sr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, born on March 11, 1926, in Linden, Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy Sr.
4 emerged as one of the most influential and courageous leaders of the American Civil Rights
5 Movement, dedicating his life to the principles of equality, justice, and human dignity; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Abernathy honorably served his country in the United States Army
7 during World War II and went on to pursue higher education at Alabama State University
8 and Atlanta University, preparing himself for a lifetime of service, leadership, and ministry;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Abernathy faithfully answered his calling to ministry and served as a
11 devoted pastor, most notably at West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, where he
12 provided spiritual leadership while advancing social justice and community empowerment;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Abernathy was a co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership
15 Conference and a trusted confidant and partner to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., working

16 tirelessly to organize peaceful demonstrations and nonviolent protests that helped dismantle
17 segregation and transform the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Abernathy played a central leadership role in the Montgomery Bus
19 Boycott and numerous civil rights campaigns, demonstrating extraordinary courage,
20 resilience, and unwavering commitment to justice; and

21 WHEREAS, following the assassination of Dr. King in 1968, Rev. Dr. Abernathy assumed
22 the presidency of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and continued advancing
23 the cause of civil rights and economic justice, including leading the historic Poor People's
24 Campaign; and

25 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Abernathy's leadership, faith, and sacrifice helped secure fundamental
26 civil rights protections and inspired generations of leaders and citizens to continue the pursuit
27 of equality and justice; and

28 WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy Sr. passed away on April 17, 1990, leaving
29 a lasting legacy as a minister, civil rights pioneer, and national leader whose contributions
30 forever changed the course of American history.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 join in honoring the life and memory of Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy Sr. and express
33 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Rev. Dr. Ralph
36 David Abernathy Sr.