

## House Resolution 53EX

By: Representatives Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Park of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 68<sup>th</sup>, Sanchez of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Robert Lee Abrams; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of a distinguished and superlative husband,  
3 father, minister, activist, and citizen with the passing of Reverend Robert Lee Abrams; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams was born on February 1, 1949, in Hattiesburg,  
5 Mississippi, a child of a segregated South who never accepted that obstacles placed on him  
6 by either chance or law would define his station or his worth; and
- 7 WHEREAS, at just 14 years old, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams was arrested for registering  
8 Black voters in Mississippi, only beginning a lifetime of standing up for the civil rights and  
9 dignity of his family, his neighbors, and his countrymen; and
- 10 WHEREAS, despite struggling with undiagnosed dyslexia, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams  
11 overcame that challenge, not only graduating high school but becoming the first man in his  
12 family to attend university, where he earned a degree from Tougaloo College; and

13 WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams had the good fortune to meet and marry his wife,  
14 Reverend Carolyn Abrams on February 28, 1969, and began a life together in Gulfport,  
15 Mississippi, where they built a joyful home bound in love and service to others; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams and Reverend Carolyn Abrams were blessed to  
17 raise six children – Andrea, Stacey, Leslie, Richard, Walter, and Jeanine – in whom he  
18 instilled the maxim that "having nothing is not an excuse for doing nothing," whom they  
19 raised to place service to others at the forefront of their lives, and of whom he was  
20 immeasurably proud; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1989, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams, after many years as a shipyard worker  
22 in Mississippi, and Reverend Carolyn Abrams felt the call to serve as the pastor of Mt.  
23 Pleasant UMC and Riley Chapel UMC in Gulfport, Mississippi, and St. Mark UMC in  
24 Atlanta, Georgia, where he ministered to all those most in need of faith in God and the love  
25 of their fellow man, dedicating himself to the homeless, troubled young youth, and the  
26 incarcerated; and

27 WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams passed on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, surrounded  
28 by his loving wife, children, grandchildren and siblings, who best exemplify and steward his  
29 legacy of faith, courage, service, laughter, and love; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1 Corinthians 15:58, the Apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore my beloved brothers  
31 and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you  
32 know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"; and

33 WHEREAS, Reverend Robert Lee Abrams, much as he knew that his faith and his family  
34 would always come for him in his time of need, never failed – whether through his activism

35 or his ministry – to come for others in their own, and through his lifelong commitment and  
36 service to the equal rights and dignity of all did not ever labor a day in vain.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 the members of this body join in honoring the life and legacy of Reverend Robert Lee  
39 Abrams and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
42 family of Reverend Robert Lee Abrams.