

House Resolution 1175

By: Representative Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Rasheed Akbar; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Rasheed Akbar is a professional musician and longshoreman currently living  
3 in Savannah, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he studied music at Southern University of New Orleans under the direction of  
5 world renowned Kidd Jordan and played his first gig opening for Grover Washington along  
6 with his classmates Branford and Wynton Marsalis; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Rasheed has played innumerable performances with some of the greatest bands  
8 of our time, including The Southern University Big Band, Willie Metcalf's Academy of  
9 Black Arts Big Band, Mr. Clyde Kerr Sr. Big Band, Sun Ra's Arkestra, Naked Orchestra, and  
10 various show bands; and
- 11 WHEREAS, this distinguished musician has been a member of many bands, including the  
12 Eureka Brass Band, Original Royal Players Brass Band, Mahogany Brass Band, and James  
13 Andrew's Brass Band, and was a recording artist with Kirk Joseph's Backyard Groove; and

14 WHEREAS, Rasheed has traveled the world representing New Orleans as an ambassador to  
15 the State Department in association with Jazz at Lincoln Center as a lead member of the New  
16 Orleans All-Star Brass Band and is a founding member of the New Orleans Jazz Ramblers,  
17 the 504-901 Jazz Band, and the Jackson Square Players New Orleans; and

18 WHEREAS, a world renowned musician, Rasheed has been the subject of many  
19 photojournalists and film documentaries; and

20 WHEREAS, Rasheed remains dedicated to his music even after retiring as a longshoreman  
21 in 2021, volunteering many times to perform for the Juneteenth celebrations in Savannah;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the extraordinary musical talent  
24 of this distinguished Georgian.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body recognize and commend Rasheed Akbar for his contributions to  
27 Georgia's rich musical heritage and extend best wishes for happiness and good health in the  
28 future.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
31 Rasheed Akbar.