

House Resolution 1297

By: Representatives Stinson of the 150th, Jackson of the 128th, Sampson of the 153rd, Dickey of the 145th, and Vance of the 133rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Willie James Bentley; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Willie James Bentley has devoted more than six decades of his life to the
3 compassionate support of families in grief through his stewardship of Bentley's Funeral
4 Home located in Reynolds, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, a past resident of Newark, New Jersey, he initially returned to Reynolds with
6 his beloved wife, Betty, to assume ownership of the funeral home from his father, leading
7 to many years of distinguished service to his community; and

8 WHEREAS, alongside his father and other community leaders, he was instrumental in the
9 founding of the Taylor County NAACP Chapter, through which he tirelessly fought for civil
10 and voters' rights as well as contributed significantly to the advancement of equality and
11 justice in Taylor County and beyond; and

12 WHEREAS, he additionally served for 15 years as part of the Taylor County Board of
13 Commissioners, during which time he was instrumental in creating employment and
14 economic opportunities, improving local infrastructure, and advocating for the rights and
15 needs of all Taylor County residents; and

16 WHEREAS, as further testament to his dedication to service, Mr. Willie James Bentley
17 protected his fellow Americans during the Korean War as a medic, saving the lives of his
18 wounded comrades and earning several medals; and

19 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high
20 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and he possesses the vast wisdom
21 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
22 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

23 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
24 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
26 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize and commend Mr. Willie James Bentley for his decades
29 of efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated service; congratulate him upon the grand
30 occasion of his retirement; and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued health and
31 happiness.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr.
34 Willie James Bentley.