

House Resolution 1680

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Alexander of the 66th, and Stovall of the 74th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Walter Rodney Foundation and recognizing March 23, 2018, as Dr. Walter
2 Rodney Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Rodney was a scholar, historian, educator, Pan-Africanist, and
4 political activist committed to the struggle for justice and equality, who combined his
5 scholarship with activism to become a voice for the underrepresented and disenfranchised,
6 and whose written works and words, such as *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* and *The*
7 *Groundings with My Brothers*, resonated in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and North
8 America; and

9 WHEREAS, the Walter Rodney Foundation seeks to preserve, advance, and utilize Dr.
10 Rodney's legacy to improve lives and build capacity through scholarship and programs that
11 promote education, health, and human development from a social justice perspective; and

12 WHEREAS, the Walter Rodney Symposium is held annually in Atlanta, Georgia, during the
13 week of Dr. Rodney's birthday, March 23, to bring together scholars, researchers, activists,
14 students, and the community to discuss contemporary issues referencing Rodney's works,
15 ideas, and methodology; and

16 WHEREAS, the 15th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium, "Reflecting on 50 Years of
17 Struggle," will examine the continued impact of Dr. Rodney's works in understanding our
18 history, culture, and sociopolitical future and, in addition, will explore the historical and
19 contemporary relationships between black studies, sports, race, politics, and activism as part
20 of ongoing global social movements; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Rodney's life and works are particularly relevant to the 50th anniversary of
22 the tumultuous events of 1968, considered the apex of social justice movements: the
23 sanitation workers' strike in Tennessee; the King riots throughout the United States following
24 the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Rodney riots in Jamaica, following Dr.

25 Rodney's ban from reentering that country; the Poor People's Campaign; the passage of the
26 Civil Rights (Fair Housing) Act; the Black Power fist salute by Olympic medalists John
27 Carlos and Tommie Smith at the Mexico City Olympic Games; the Kerner Commission
28 Report that pointed to segregation, poverty, and white racism as reasons for the civil unrest;
29 and the emergence of black and ethnic studies programs; and

30 WHEREAS, the Walter Rodney Foundation is uniquely situated to add important voices to
31 this conversation due to Dr. Rodney's work and legacy in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and
32 the United States, and because the Walter Rodney Foundation is located in Atlanta, with its
33 Civil Rights history, and its current role as a global epicenter of a second Black Cultural
34 Renaissance.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body commend the Walter Rodney Foundation and recognize March 23,
37 2018, as Dr. Walter Rodney Day at the state capitol.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 Walter Rodney Foundation.