

## House Resolution 1906

By: Representatives Smyre of the 135<sup>th</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Ralph David Abernathy III; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Ralph David Abernathy III on March 17, 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a beloved son of world-renowned leaders Reverend Dr. Ralph David  
5 Abernathy, Sr., and Juanita Jones Abernathy, he was born during the heat of the Civil Rights  
6 movement on March 19, 1959; unknown to this valiant young man, he was destined for  
7 public service from the time of his birth; and
- 8 WHEREAS, fighting for freedom, justice, and equality, Mr. Abernathy was arrested on June  
9 14, 1968, at the age of nine and without the presence of his parents; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy III has an illustrious career commencing at the  
11 young impressionable age of nine, during which time, he began to know and understand the  
12 dangers, rigors, and sacrifices made on behalf of human rights and justice; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Dr. Abernathy led and participated in numerous marches and many  
14 demonstrations as a child freedom fighter, including the Selma to Montgomery March and  
15 the famous March on Washington; and
- 16 WHEREAS, this commitment impacted his enthusiastic service as an elected official for  
17 some 10 years in the Georgia General Assembly where he effectuated remarkable change by  
18 passing legislation into law each year during his tenure; and
- 19 WHEREAS, while pursuing a life of public service, Dr. Abernathy was the proprietor of the  
20 only black-owned and operated gas station in the predominantly black community, located  
21 at Greenbriar Mall in Atlanta; and

22 WHEREAS, following his successful career as an entrepreneur and elected official, Dr.  
23 Abernathy received his most mighty calling to date and accepted God's challenge to bring  
24 him into the ministry; and

25 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father and brother, Ralph David Abernathy, Jr.,  
26 he is survived by his wife Annette Abernathy, and children Ralph Abernathy IV, Christiana,  
27 and Micah, a loving mother, siblings, Juondalynn, Donzaleigh, Kwame, and nephew Soren-  
28 Nikcas; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Abernathy will long be remembered for his community activism and his  
30 unprecedented commitment to nonviolence and social justice.

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

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 family of Ralph David Abernathy III.