

House Resolution 257

By: Representative Jackson of the 128th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the accomplishments of Annie Ruth Darden Gilbert; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Annie Ruth Darden Gilbert was born on May 19, 1928, as Annie Ruth Darden
3 and was a native of Warrenton, Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, she moved to Washington County, Georgia, at a young age and began her
5 life-changing journey in the civil rights movement alongside her son, Bobby Louis Darden;
6 Henry Louis Tanner; the late Richard Turner; the late P.L. Braswell; and many others; and

7 WHEREAS, she was known as a trailblazer and the Prayer Warrior for her vocal abilities and
8 her boldness during the civil rights movement; and

9 WHEREAS, she began her life's journey into ministry on June 11, 1969, at her home located
10 at 336 Hines Street in Sandersville, Georgia, with the establishment of Faith Temple
11 Holiness Church; and

12 WHEREAS, the initial members were Clarence Roberson, Donald Tarver, Ronnie
13 Duckworth, Annie Gaston, and Hattie Mae Wheeler, along with her children, Charlie Edward
14 Gilbert, Bobby Louis Darden, Jerry Gilbert Jr., Mae Ann Gilbert, and Jo Ann Gilbert; and

15 WHEREAS, she was the first female evangelist in Washington County to receive her church
16 charter with the establishment of Faith Temple Holiness Church Incorporated. A meeting
17 was held on October 1, 1970, where it was motioned and seconded that a physical church be
18 purchased or erected; and

19 WHEREAS, on October 8, 1971, she purchased a home in Sandersville, Georgia, located in
20 a community called Dark Town, at 432 Railroad Avenue, transforming it into a church; and

21 WHEREAS, the church was dedicated on April 30, 1972; and

22 WHEREAS, affectionately known as Mother Gilbert, she was the biological mother of eight
23 children, six boys and two girls: Nathaniel Parker, Alex Ivey Jr., Robert Lee Darden, Bobby
24 Louis Darden, Jerry Gilbert Jr., Charlie Edward Gilbert, Mae Ann Gilbert, and Jo Ann
25 Gilbert; and

26 WHEREAS, she was also a mother figure to her granddaughter, Australia Darden Cochran,
27 whom she reared in her home until she graduated from Washington County High School; and

28 WHEREAS, the following additions were made to the edifice during her years as founder
29 and pastor of Faith Temple Holiness Church: a baptism pool and dining area in 1988 and a
30 pastor's study in 1990; and

31 WHEREAS, Lander's Grove Holiness Church united with her ministry to become Faith
32 Temple Holiness Church Number Two; and

33 WHEREAS, under her leadership, she licensed numerous ministers, missionaries, and
34 deacons, including her son, Jerry Gilbert Jr., and Nathan Gay, who were both appointed as

35 deacons; Annie Gaston, who was licensed as a minister and appointed as assistant pastor;
36 Rev. Tracy B. Wheeler, who received his minister's license; Hattie Mae Wheeler, who was
37 licensed as a minister and later appointed by a vote of the family as the pastor of Faith
38 Temple Holiness Church after Mother Gilbert's passing; and many others; and

39 WHEREAS, her last official duty as pastor was to license her granddaughter, Australia, as
40 the missionary of Faith Temple Holiness Church; and

41 WHEREAS, after 28 years of faithful service to the Lord Jesus, she was called to her
42 heavenly home on July 4, 1998, at the age of 70.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body hereby recognize evangelist Annie Ruth Darden Gilbert during
45 Black History Month for her contributions to the civil rights movement and for being the first
46 female minister to receive her church charter.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
48 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
49 family of Annie Ruth Darden Gilbert.