

House Resolution 709

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Bruce of the 61st, McClain of the 109th, and Williams of the 168th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the life and memory of Robert "Bob" Mants Jr. for his
2 contributions to society; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, born at Grady Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, Robert "Bob" Mants Jr. was just
4 12 years old when he saw the beaten and torn face of Emmett Till on the cover of *Jet*
5 *Magazine*, forever changing the direction of his life; and

6 WHEREAS, at the age of 14, he first started volunteering at the headquarters of the Student
7 Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, where he stuffed envelopes, took care of posters and
8 signs, answered the telephone, and eventually served as field secretary; and

9 WHEREAS, one of the SNCC's youngest leaders, he walked in the second row of marchers
10 who led 600 peaceful demonstrators across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, an
11 event that led to what is now known as Bloody Sunday; and

12 WHEREAS, on Bloody Sunday, police troopers approached the peaceful marchers, beat
13 them mercilessly with their clubs, and tear gassed them; during this violent suppression,
14 Robert "Bob" Mants Jr. saved a woman from a possible beating and took her away from the
15 tear gas cloud; and

16 WHEREAS, he settled down in Lowndes County following the march, which was once
17 known as Bloody Lowndes due to its longstanding history of racial violence against Black
18 individuals who sought voting registration; and

19 WHEREAS, when Robert "Bob" Mants Jr. attempted to register Black voters, the
20 newly-registered voters were evicted from their homes by the predominantly White
21 landowners and forced to live in a temporary tent city, where they were subjected to two
22 years of intimidation due to constant gun fire into the encampment; and

23 WHEREAS, he further served his community for one term as a member of the Lowndes
24 County Commission as well as one of the five founders of The Lowndes County Freedom
25 Organization; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding life and legacy of this
27 remarkable and distinguished individual be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize and honor the life, memory, and legacy of civil rights
30 leader Robert "Bob" Mants Jr.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 family of Robert "Bob" Mants Jr.