House Resolution 1239

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, and McClain of the 100th

A RESOLUTION

1   Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie M. Bolden; 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 Reverend Willie Bolden; and

4   WHEREAS, he received his early education in the Savannah Public Schools and later

5   graduated from Harvard University, with a Master of Education, and the Interdenominational

6   Theological Center, with a certificate in Theology; and

7   WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden began his religious journey under the influence of Honorable

8   Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who convinced him to fight for equal rights with the Bible and

9   a book written by Mahatma Gandhi; and

10 WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden began to work with Dr. King and worked in every major Civil

11 Rights Movement across the country, including Selma, Alabama, and St. Augustine, Florida,

12 which was the bloodiest movement of the entire 1960s; and

13 WHEREAS, he was in charge of bringing the Mule Train from Marx, Mississippi, to

14 Washington, D.C., for the Poor People Campaign, and he organized 16 wagons and 50,000

15 people for the 500 mile journey; and

16 WHEREAS, he continued his activism through speaking engagements, including a trip to

17 Ferguson, Mississippi, to teach nonviolence; and

18 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United

19 States Marine Corps, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, as a Union Representative with the American Federation of State, County, and

21 Municipal Employees, Local 1644, he represented local membership in contract negotiations,

22 and arbitration of employee grievances with supervisors and/or management; and

23 WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden served as pastor of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

24 in Cedartown, Georgia, for 14 years and the Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta,

25 Georgia, for four years; and

26 WHEREAS, highly regarded in his community, he was inducted into the International Civil

27 Rights Hall of Fame by the Trumpet Award Foundation in 2012; presented an award for

28 being a member of the "ground crew" that made the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah,

29 Georgia, a success by the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee in 2013; presented the

30 Civil Rights Act of 1964 50th Anniversary Humanitarian Award by Corinth Missionary

31 Baptist Church, Inc., in 2014; and was honored by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed as a Civil and

32 Voting Rights Legend in 2015; and

33 WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden was united in love and marriage to Georgianna, and was

34 blessed with one remarkable daughter, Felicia; and

35 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern

36 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his

37 family and friends were admired by others; and

38 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation

39 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he

40 made this world a better place in which to live; and

41 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Reverend Willie Bolden will long be

42 remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal activist, pastor, teacher, and

43 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that

45 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Bolden

46 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

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 Reverend Willie Bolden.