

By Representative Roberts-Burke

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Evander Holyfield,
3 Heavyweight Champion of the World.

4
5 WHEREAS, Evander Holyfield was born on October 19,
6 1962, in Atmore, Alabama, the youngest of nine children born
7 to Annie Laura Holyfield and Isom Coley, and

8 WHEREAS, at age four, Evander and his family moved to
9 Atlanta, Georgia, and

10 WHEREAS, at age eight, Evander Holyfield began his
11 boxing career at the Warren Boys Club in southeast Atlanta,
12 and

13 WHEREAS, it was in Atlanta that Carter Morgan, his late
14 coach, told eight-year-old Evander Holyfield that he could be
15 the heavyweight champion of the world, and

16 WHEREAS, that interaction and Evander's vision, strong
17 desire, excellent work ethic, and steadfast perseverance began
18 the illustrious career of Evander Holyfield and would
19 eventually make him the champion he is today, and

20 WHEREAS, at eight years of age Evander won the Boys
21 Club Boxing Tournament, and

22 WHEREAS, at age 11 he competed in his first Junior
23 Olympics, and at ages 12 through 15 he won the tournament
24 regionally, and

25 WHEREAS, in 1979, at age 16, Evander's weight had
26 increased to 139 pounds, placing him in the Junior
27 Welterweight division, and he became the Southeastern Regional
28 Champion, winning both the tournament and the Best Boxer
29 Award, and

30 WHEREAS, Evander continued to compete and advanced
31 through the various weight classes and by age 17 was fighting

1 in the Welterweight division, by age 18 in the Junior
2 Middleweight division, and then the Middleweight division, and

3 WHEREAS, at age 19 Evander was competing in the Light
4 Heavyweight division, was the Sportsfest Boxing Champion, and
5 was ranked the number one boxer in his class in the United
6 States, and

7 WHEREAS, it was at this time that he represented the
8 United States in the Pan American Games in Caracas, Venezuela,
9 winning a Silver Medal, and

10 WHEREAS, the following year he was the National Golden
11 Gloves Champion, representing the United States in the 1984
12 Olympics in Los Angeles and winning a Bronze Medal, and

13 WHEREAS, Evander Holyfield made his professional boxing
14 debut in November 1984, defeating Lionel Bryams, and

15 WHEREAS, in 1986 he won his first Cruiserweight title
16 against Dwight M. Qawi, a WBA Junior Heavyweight, becoming the
17 first boxer of the 1984 Olympics to win a championship title,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, in 1987 he won the IBF Cruiserweight title
20 against Ricky Parkey, and

21 WHEREAS, in 1988 he won the WBC Cruiserweight title
22 against Carlos DeLeon, making Evander the only boxer in
23 history to become an undefeated, undisputed Cruiserweight
24 Champion, and

25 WHEREAS, to this day, all Cruiserweight championship
26 belts bear Evander Holyfield's picture, as a lasting tribute
27 to his legacy, and

28 WHEREAS, unwilling to become complacent as a result of
29 his Cruiserweight success, Evander continued advancing in his
30 goal to become the World Heavyweight Champion, and

31

1 WHEREAS, in less than a year, in 1989, Evander
2 Holyfield became the WBC Continental Heavyweight Champion
3 defeating Michael Dokes, and

4 WHEREAS, a year later, on October 25, 1990, Evander
5 Holyfield fulfilled his dream of 20 years when he became the
6 undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World by defeating
7 Buster Douglas, thus being named the IBF, WBA, and WBC
8 Champion, and

9 WHEREAS, Evander Holyfield remained the undisputed
10 Heavyweight Champion of the World until 1992, when he lost his
11 title to Riddick Bowe, and

12 WHEREAS, Evander regained his championship title in his
13 rematch with Riddick Bowe in 1993, and

14 WHEREAS, 1994 was a pivotal point in Evander's career,
15 losing his title to Michael Moorer and receiving a medical
16 misdiagnosis which cost him his boxing license, and

17 WHEREAS, however, Evander Holyfield's spirit, his
18 commitment to excellence, his sense of destiny, and his faith
19 in God allowed him to overcome these obstacles and return to
20 the sport of boxing in May 1995, winning a decision over Ray
21 Mercer, and

22 WHEREAS, at that time, only Muhammad Ali had won a
23 World Heavyweight Championship title three times, and

24 WHEREAS, on November 9, 1996, Evander Holyfield
25 defeated Mike Tyson and entered the history books once again
26 as only the second man in history to become a three-time World
27 Heavyweight Champion, and

28 WHEREAS, Evander Holyfield has carried his championship
29 drive and vision into all facets of his life, and

30 WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings in a Christian home
31 where honesty, courtesy, confidence, integrity, and faith in

1 God were instilled in him, to his life today, Evander
2 Holyfield and his wife, Dr. Janice Holyfield, currently
3 instill these same values in their six children and in
4 children around the world, and

5 WHEREAS, this vision is perpetuated in the
6 establishment of the Evander Holyfield Foundation, a lasting
7 monument and vehicle through which Evander Holyfield supports
8 his charitable interests, and

9 WHEREAS, in addition, the Evander Holyfield Annual Golf
10 and Tennis Charity Outing has made major contributions to the
11 Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and

12 WHEREAS, Evander Holyfield also brings this same vision
13 and sense of destiny to his business endeavors, bringing him
14 tremendous success in financial circles, and

15 WHEREAS, Evander Holyfield's boxing success and
16 sponsorships annually make him one of the highest paid
17 athletes in the world, and

18 WHEREAS, his presence and associations with companies
19 such as Coca-Cola and others have spawned substantial gains in
20 revenue and market share, and

21 WHEREAS, in addition, through his many television and
22 personal appearances, Evander Holyfield has become one of the
23 10 most recognized persons in the world, NOW, THEREFORE,

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25 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
26 Florida:

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28 That the House of Representatives of the State of
29 Florida hereby recognizes and honors Evander Holyfield,
30 Heavyweight Champion of the World.

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution
2 be presented to Evander Holyfield as a tangible token of the
3 sentiments expressed herein.
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