

REFERENCE TITLE: George Brooks; death resolution

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

HCR 2067

Introduced by
Representatives Campbell CL, Pancrazi

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE REVEREND DOCTOR GEORGE BENJAMIN BROOKS, SR.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 The Rev. Dr. George Brooks, Sr. passed away on September 26, 2007 at
2 the age of eighty-one.

3 A tireless advocate of civil rights and social change, George Brooks
4 worked diligently to better the world around him and dedicated himself to
5 fighting discrimination in this state. He served in the Navy and graduated
6 from Johnson C. Smith University with a degree in pre-law, and in 1951 he
7 earned his Master's of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary.
8 He was then asked by Presbyterian executives to move to Arizona and start the
9 state's first African American Presbyterian church. He founded Southminster
10 Presbyterian Church in south Phoenix and served as its pastor until his
11 retirement in 1996.

12 For more than half a century, George Brooks was a strong voice of
13 reason in the fight for equality for all citizens, and his efforts
14 distinguished him as a leading civil rights leader in Arizona. He served as
15 president of the Maricopa County NAACP from 1964 to 1972, and in 1964, he
16 lobbied in Washington for funds to start a preschool, a proposal that was
17 instrumental in the establishment of Head Start. He served as a member of
18 the Arizona legislature and as a longtime school board member with the
19 Roosevelt Elementary School District, and also founded Meals on Wheels in the
20 Phoenix community.

21 In 1973, George Brooks received his Master's of Education degree from
22 Arizona State University, and three years later he earned his Ph.D. in
23 Ministry and Counseling from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He received
24 an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Johnson C. Smith Seminary in 1995.
25 In all of his efforts, George Brooks gave selflessly of his time, energy and
26 abilities, and his courage, tenacity and outspoken passion for civil rights
27 continue to inspire a new generation of civic leaders.

28 Dedicated to his family, George Brooks, Sr. will be greatly missed by
29 his wife of fifty-three years, Lula, his son, George Brooks, Jr., his
30 daughter, Susan Morris, his five granddaughters and many cousins, nieces and
31 nephews.

32 Therefore

33 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the

34 Senate concurring:

35 That the Members of the Legislature sincerely regret the passing of the
36 Rev. Dr. George Brooks, Sr. and extend their deepest sympathies to his
37 surviving family members.