

House Resolution 1684

By: Representatives Collins of the 71st, New of the 64th, McDonald of the 26th, and Mathis of the 149th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the legacy of J. Hoyt and Melba Hembree Thomas; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, J. Hoyt Thomas was born on January 8, 1933, and raised in the Fullerville
3 community of Villa Rica, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, as a young man in the 1950s, he worked for R.O. "Uncle Bud" Taylor at R.O.
5 Taylor Funeral Home, where he gained his initial experience in mortuary services and
6 formed the foundation of his future career; and
- 7 WHEREAS, prior to pursuing his life's passion, he served for several years as a guardian of
8 this nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Army and worked as part of Ford
9 Motor Company; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1972, he enrolled at the Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, graduating
11 in 1973 with his funeral director's and embalmer's licenses; and
- 12 WHEREAS, alongside his wife, Melba, he founded the J. Hoyt Thomas Funeral Home in
13 1974, where he dedicated his life to caring for others during their time of need, and this year
14 marks the 50th anniversary of its founding; and

15 WHEREAS, deeply committed to the community, J. Hoyt and Melba further served together
16 as members of the 1st United Methodist Church of Villa Rica and worked diligently to build
17 a respected and responsible family, including two wonderful children and grandchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, since J. Hoyt's passing in April 1999, Melba has continued to actively serve the
19 people of Villa Rica and preserve the funeral home's legacy; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that these two outstanding Georgians be
21 appropriately honored during this special time.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body honor the life and memory of J. Hoyt Thomas, commend Melba
24 Hembree Thomas for her decades of service to the people of Villa Rica, and extend sincere
25 best wishes for future health and happiness upon the grand occasion of the 50th anniversary
26 of the founding of the J. Hoyt Thomas Funeral Home.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
29 Melba Hembree Thomas.