

House Resolution 1090

By: Representatives Skipper of the 137th and Murphy of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey as *America's Living National Treasure*;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, 2002 marks the 209th Anniversary of Circus in America; and

4 WHEREAS, this unique and enduring form of family entertainment has enriched the lives
5 of millions of Georgians for generations as an important part of our culture; and

6 WHEREAS, the name Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey has been synonymous with the
7 word Circus for 132 years; and

8 WHEREAS, its spectacular three rings of Circus have become so much a part of the
9 American lexicon that the term is routinely invoked to describe spectacles of any and all
10 types; and

11 WHEREAS, its impact on American political lore is reflected in such phrases as "get on the
12 bandwagon" and "toss your hat in the ring"; and

13 WHEREAS, its animal stars such as Jumbo and Gargantua have been of such renown that
14 their names have become generic words in our language; and

15 WHEREAS, under Feld family ownership, it founded *Clown College*, which revived the
16 ancient art of clowning and brought youthful new talent to the circus ring; and

17 WHEREAS, it has provided an educational showcase that allows young minds to know the
18 beauty and majesty of nature's animal kingdom and is dedicated to the preservation of exotic
19 and endangered species; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1995, Kenneth Feld founded the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center
2 for Elephant Conservation, a 200 acre facility dedicated to the reproduction, retirement,
3 research, and future survival of the Asian elephant; and

4 WHEREAS, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey has made available the universal appeal
5 of the Circus to enhance the education of young people and to support the efforts of
6 worthwhile programs to address such societal problems as illiteracy and missing children;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, its annual pilgrimage to communities throughout the land remains, in today's
9 age of technology, an ageless tradition of warmth and humanity which links grandparents to
10 grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, it is unrivaled in the memorable joy and pleasure it brings to the hearts and
12 minds of children of all ages; and

13 WHEREAS, The Greatest Show On Earth is indelibly etched in the historical and cultural
14 fabric of the State of Georgia and the United States and represents a unique part of our
15 heritage.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
17 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is hereby recognized as *America's Living*
18 *National Treasure*, to be cherished by the people of the State of Georgia for its lasting
19 contributions to our culture and to be preserved for future generations.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ringling Bros. and Barnum
22 & Bailey Circus.