

## House Resolution 1290

By: Representatives Rogers of the 20<sup>th</sup>, Jamieson of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Smith of the 19<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Shirley Whitaker; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Shirley Whitaker is retiring after a distinguished 36-year career as an educator;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, she graduated from Gainesville High School in 1950, and earned her bachelor's  
5 degree from North Georgia College, her master's degree and specialist degree from the  
6 University of Georgia, and her doctorate from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, she began teaching at Riverbend Elementary School in Gainesville, Georgia,  
9 and continued to teach after moving to Fairfax County, Virginia; and

10 WHEREAS, she stopped teaching for 11 years to raise her three sons, but returned to  
11 teaching in Gainesville, Georgia, at Enota Elementary School, Candler Street School, Main  
12 Street School, and Fair Street School; and

13 WHEREAS, she has provided excellent leadership as principal of Fair Street School, Enota  
14 Elementary School, and Centennial Elementary School; and

15 WHEREAS, she says she feels "like I'm everybody's grandmother" since she taught the  
16 parents of the students who attend Centennial Elementary School; and

17 WHEREAS, she has responded positively to racial and cultural changes in the Gainesville  
18 area, as she has observed up close the effects of racial integration and the massive influx of  
19 Latinos into area schools; and

1 WHEREAS, her genuine concern for every child and her willingness to provide discipline  
2 with dignity when needed have been appreciated by students, parents, and faculty, and she  
3 will be sorely missed.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
5 the members of this body commend Shirley Whitaker as an exemplary educator and extend  
6 warm wishes for a happy and prosperous retirement.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Shirley Whitaker.