

## Senate Resolution 811

By: Senators Stokes of the 43rd, Thomas of the 10th and Butler of the 55th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, several years ago an African American Media Specialist, Mrs. Helen Ruffin,  
3 worked at Sky Haven Elementary School. She also served on the selection committee for  
4 a reading program that began at the University of Georgia. This program is called the  
5 Georgia Children's Book Award program;

6 WHEREAS, through this program, students, teachers, and media specialists from around the  
7 state recommend books that they have read and liked, to be considered to be voted upon as  
8 the best Picture Book and the best Book Award for grades 4 and up. Each year, the selection  
9 committee reads over 100 books and selects 20 to be read by students throughout Georgia.  
10 These selected books are called Georgia Book Award Nominees. The nominated books are  
11 then voted on in March through the Internet and the winning books are announced at the  
12 Georgia Children's Literature Conference; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ruffin wanted a way to encourage more of her students to read these  
14 books. She developed a reading competition game, which enabled students to read the  
15 books, and to answer questions about each one in a competitive game. She then mentioned  
16 her new idea to other media specialists in DeKalb County who were friends of hers. They  
17 liked the idea, and began to hold competitions within their schools as well and Mrs. Ruffin  
18 and some of her friends decided to encourage their students to compete against each other  
19 in school against neighbor school competitions. Over time, this special reading program has  
20 grown. Now there is a DeKalb County School System Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. The  
21 competition held at Columbia High School in March of 2002 will mark the third annual  
22 county-wide competition. This school term high schools will join the elementary and middle  
23 schools in competition. Mrs. Ruffin presents the winning trophies at the annual reading  
24 bowl.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
2 recognize the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl and its originator, Mrs. Helen Ruffin, for the  
3 contributions made thereby to the welfare of this state.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
5 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Helen Ruffin.