

House Resolution 308

By: Representatives Lane of the 146th, Coleman of the 142nd, DeLoach of the 172nd, Stephens of the 150th, Barnard of the 154th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the life of Ms. Emma Kelly and expressing regret at her passing; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, "Musicians are touched on the shoulder by God," Emma Kelly was fond of
4 saying, and on January 17, 2001, God touched the 82 year old "Lady of 6,000 Songs" again
5 - this time to call her home; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Kelly was a legend long before she was featured with an entire chapter of
7 the popular novel, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, playing her amazing repertoire
8 in lounges on Savannah's downtown river front and at Sunday schools, church socials, high
9 school graduations, and wedding receptions across south Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Kelly was given her nickname, the Lady of 6,000 Songs, by her friend,
11 famed Savannah song writer and lyricist Johnny Mercer, but Ben Tucker, jazz bassist who
12 often accompanied Ms. Kelly, feels even that name is too modest for a pianist and singer who
13 could play almost any song her audience could name without sheet music; and

14 WHEREAS, after her funeral on January 19, her family of ten children held a musical
15 celebration at a Statesboro country club where she often played, featuring many musicians
16 close to her, a fitting farewell to a fine musician and a wonderful human being; and

17 WHEREAS, in her final days, Ms. Kelly told her family that she was not ready to go yet
18 because she was not through playing, but everyone who ever heard her play knows for
19 certain that God would not want her to stop playing after she was called home.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body celebrate the life of Ms. Emma Kelly and express regret at her
22 passing.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Emma
3 Kelly.