

House Resolution 448

By: Representatives Orrock of the 56th, Skipper of the 137th and Murphy of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

1 In tribute to Honorable Janet Scarborough Merritt; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Honorable Janet Scarborough Merritt was born in Americus, Georgia, on
3 January 4, 1909, and was a daughter to Robert Henry Scarborough and Janet Augusta Burton
4 Scarborough, and was the wife of Samuel Mickleberry Merritt; and

5 WHEREAS, she attended Valdosta State College in Valdosta, Georgia, received a degree in
6 education from that institution, held a lifetime teaching certificate, and taught in the public
7 schools of Georgia, including Sumter County; and

8 WHEREAS, she was a musician, piano teacher, and artist whose work was sponsored by the
9 Southwest Georgia Arts Council; and

10 WHEREAS, she was one of the first elected women to serve in the Georgia House of
11 Representatives in 1965, where she served four terms during which time she served on
12 numerous committees, including the Appropriations Committee, the University System of
13 Georgia Committee, and the State Planning and Community Affairs Committee; and

14 WHEREAS, she maintained a perfect attendance record for eight regular and two special
15 sessions and was the author of more than 100 bills during her legislative career; and

16 WHEREAS, she authored and introduced the first legislation to repeal the Georgia flag
17 design of 1955 and return the Georgia flag to a design adopted by the Georgia Legislature
18 of 1879; and

19 WHEREAS, she served as the recording secretary for the National Order of Women
20 Legislators, secretary of the Third District Legislative Group in Georgia, and as treasurer of
21 the Georgia Caucus; and

1 WHEREAS, she was a licensed insurance agent, a licensed real estate broker, was listed in
2 *Who's Who of American Women, Who's Who of the South and Southwest, Who's Who in*
3 *American Politics*, and 2000 Women of Achievement, an international recognition; and

4 WHEREAS, she was one of only 50 women invited as Ford Foundation Delegate to attend
5 a seminar on "Women in Politics" at Rutgers University and was interviewed by Jeane J.
6 Kirkpatrick who later quoted Mrs. Merritt in her book; and

7 WHEREAS, she was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution,
8 serving as State Regent of the Georgia Society, Vice President General of the National
9 Society, president of the Vice-President's General Club, and was an honorary Life Regent
10 of the Georgia Society; and

11 WHEREAS, she held membership in the Civil Defense, Women's Committee of Georgia, the
12 Colonial Dames of America, the Georgia and National Teachers' Association, the Sumter
13 County Historical Society, Chi Omega Mothers at the University of Georgia, the
14 International Platform Association, the Sumter County Mental Health Association, the Pilot
15 Club, the Andersonville Guild, a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's
16 Club, the Junior Welfare League, the Daylily Garden Club, former parliamentarian and
17 president of the Sumter County Federated Garden Clubs, and was a national accredited
18 flower show judge; and

19 WHEREAS, she was a consistent volunteer and worker through the years in the American
20 Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the Easter Seal Society, the American Heart
21 Association, Goodwill, Mental Health, and the Campfire and Girl Scouts Organizations; and

22 WHEREAS, until her death on July 23, 2000, Honorable Janet Scarborough Merritt was a
23 person committed to public service and the betterment of nation, state, and community.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body recognize the life of the Honorable Janet Scarborough Merritt, her
26 exemplary record of public service, and her many contributions to the State of Georgia and
27 the United States of America.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Valdosta State University
30 for placement in an appropriate place of honor.