

House Resolution 33

By: Representatives Walker of the 141st, Murphy of the 18th, Parham of the 122nd, Smyre of the 136th, Skipper of the 137th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Calling a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly on January 23, 2001, in
2 Milledgeville, Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the years after the American Revolution were a period of great population
4 growth for Georgia, with most new settlers moving to newly opened lands in Georgia's
5 interior; and

6 WHEREAS, the westward movement of Georgia's frontier led the Georgia General
7 Assembly to move the state capital from Savannah to Augusta in 1785 and then to Louisville
8 in 1795; and

9 WHEREAS, in the Treaty of Fort Wilkinson in 1802, Creek Indians ceded lands westward
10 to the Oconee River to Georgia, lands which the General Assembly divided into Baldwin and
11 Wilkinson counties on May 11, 1803; and

12 WHEREAS, on that same day, a joint session of the General Assembly appointed a
13 commission to select a site at the head of navigation of the Oconee River which would be
14 suitable for a permanent capital to be named Milledgeville; and

15 WHEREAS, in December, 1804, the General Assembly accepted the plans presented by the
16 commissioners; and

17 WHEREAS, a town was laid out, and lots were sold to finance construction of a new Georgia
18 Capitol on a twenty-acre Government Square; and

19 WHEREAS, construction of the new Georgia Capitol took two years and eventually cost
20 almost \$80,000.00; and

1 WHEREAS, when completed in the fall of 1807, the new Gothic Revival brick building was
2 a magnificent and distinctive statehouse with walls four feet thick; and

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's Capitol at Milledgeville would serve as statehouse for the following
4 six decades, a period during which momentous events in Georgia and United States history
5 would occur; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1838, the State of Georgia built a large executive mansion, which would
7 serve as home to Georgia Governors from 1838 to 1868; and

8 WHEREAS, this historic Greek Revival structure now serves as a state museum and has
9 been designated a National Historic Landmark; and

10 WHEREAS, Milledgeville served as state capital of Georgia until Reconstruction, when
11 framers of the Constitution of 1868 provided that if the new Constitution was ratified by the
12 voters of Georgia, Atlanta would become the new state capital; and

13 WHEREAS, the Constitution of 1868 was ratified by voters in April 1868; and

14 WHEREAS, on June 30, 1868, a train of 16 cars left Atlanta for Milledgeville with an order
15 from the provisional Governor to bring back statehouse furniture and furnishings, including
16 full-length portraits of Jefferson, Washington, Oglethorpe, Franklin, and Lafayette painted
17 in 1826 that now hang in the rotunda of the present State Capitol of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, the former State Capitol at Milledgeville subsequently served as Baldwin
19 County Courthouse for several years before being converted into the home of the Georgia
20 Military College in 1879; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Military College has owned and occupied the building continuously
22 since 1879; and

23 WHEREAS, the former Georgia State Capitol was severely damaged by fire in 1941 but was
24 subsequently rebuilt in its former design and continues today as part of the Georgia Military
25 College; and

1 WHEREAS, because of the importance of this historic structure, the Georgia Military
2 College with the support of Governors Zell Miller and Roy Barnes and the Georgia General
3 Assembly undertook a major restoration of the former Capitol building; and

4 WHEREAS, the restoration began in 1998 and was completed with a celebration marking
5 the completion of the restoration in October, 2000; and

6 WHEREAS, on the 250th anniversary of representative government in Georgia, it is only
7 fitting and proper that Milledgeville and its former State Capitol be recognized for the six
8 critical decades that they served the people and governmental institutions of Georgia.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 GEORGIA that a joint session of the Georgia General Assembly be held on January 23,
11 2001, in the Legislative Chamber of the former State Capitol in Milledgeville for an address
12 by His Excellency Governor Roy E. Barnes followed by a visit to the Old Governor's
13 Mansion.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hour of convening the joint session, the admission
15 of guests to the joint session, and other matters relating to the joint session shall be as ordered
16 by the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives.