

## House Resolution 559

By: Representatives Bohannon of the 139<sup>th</sup>, Walker of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Brooks of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Westmoreland of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Cox of the 105<sup>th</sup> and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the intent and desire of the House of Representatives to protect and preserve all  
2 publicly owned monuments, plaques, markers, statues, and memorials which are dedicated  
3 to, honor, or recount the military service of any past or present military personnel of this  
4 state, the United States of America or the several states thereof, or the Confederate States of  
5 America or the several states thereof; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and its political subdivisions, departments, agencies, and  
7 authorities have through the years erected and established many monuments, plaques,  
8 markers, statues, and memorials which are dedicated to, honor, and recount the military  
9 service of past and present military personnel of this state, the United States of America and  
10 the several states thereof, and the Confederate States of America and the several states  
11 thereof; and

12 WHEREAS, these monuments, plaques, markers, statues, and memorials are fitting and  
13 proper memorials to these individuals who served their country and state with devotion and  
14 dignity that should be protected and preserved; and

15 WHEREAS, of special significance among these many monuments, plaques, markers,  
16 statues, and memorials is the memorial to the heroes of the Confederate States of America  
17 that is graven upon the face of Stone Mountain; and

18 WHEREAS, in passing Act No. 1 (House Bill No. 16) in the 2001 session of the Georgia  
19 General Assembly, the General Assembly provided that it would be "unlawful for any  
20 person, firm, corporation, or other entity to mutilate, deface, defile, or abuse contemptuously  
21 any publicly owned monument, plaque, marker, or memorial which is dedicated to, honors,  
22 or recounts the military service of any past or present military personnel of this state, the  
23 United States of America or the several states thereof, or the Confederate States of America  
24 or the several states thereof, and no officer, body, or representative of state or local  
25 government or any department, agency, authority, or instrumentality thereof shall remove or

1 conceal from display any such monument, plaque, marker, or memorial for the purpose of  
2 preventing the visible display of the same" and that no "publicly owned monument or  
3 memorial erected, constructed, created, or maintained on the public property of this state or  
4 its agencies, departments, authorities, or instrumentalities in honor of the military service of  
5 any past or present military personnel of this state, the United States of America or the  
6 several states thereof, or the Confederate States of America or the several states thereof shall  
7 be relocated, removed, concealed, obscured or altered in any fashion; provided, however,  
8 that appropriate measures for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of such  
9 monuments or memorials shall not be prohibited"; and

10 WHEREAS, Act No. 1 further provided that "the memorial to the heroes of the Confederate  
11 States of America graven upon the face of Stone Mountain shall never be altered, removed,  
12 concealed, or obscured in any fashion and shall be preserved and protected for all time as a  
13 tribute to the bravery and heroism of the citizens of this state who suffered and died in their  
14 cause"; and

15 WHEREAS, many persons have continued to express concerns that there may still be present  
16 or future efforts made to remove, conceal, alter, or obscure these monuments, plaques,  
17 markers, statues, and memorials.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
19 it is the intent and desire of this body that all publicly owned monuments, plaques, markers,  
20 statues, and memorials which are dedicated to, honor, or recount the military service of any  
21 past or present military personnel of this state, the United States of America or the several  
22 states thereof, or the Confederate States of America or the several states thereof, including  
23 specifically the memorial to the heroes of the Confederate States of America that is graven  
24 upon the face of Stone Mountain, be protected and preserved for all time as a tribute to the  
25 bravery and heroism of the citizens of this state who suffered and died in their cause and that  
26 no action shall be taken by any governmental body or other person or entity to alter, remove,  
27 conceal, or obscure such monuments, plaques, markers, statues, and memorials in any  
28 fashion.