

House Resolution 616

By: Representatives Watson of the 60th, Post 2, Williams of the 61st, Post 2, Greene-Johnson of the 60th, Post 3, and Stephenson of the 60th, Post 1

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 90th birthday of Emma Respress; inviting her to appear before the
2 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mary Lizzie "Emma" McCrary was born April 12, 1913, one of nine children
4 of Dollie McCrary and Charles McCrary, who were sharecroppers in Crawford County,
5 Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, she learned early to cook, sew, quilt, preserve fresh fruits, pick cotton, and help
7 keep people healthy, the secrets of success and survival in rural Georgia during the 1920's;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, she comes from strong, durable people: her mother lived to a few days before
10 her 102nd birthday, and her father was nearly 100 years old when he died; and

11 WHEREAS, the unrelenting toil of farm life limited her education to the fourth grade level,
12 but she developed on-the-job life skills, intelligence, and energy that helped her to nurture
13 her large family; and

14 WHEREAS, she married Robert James Respress in 1931, forming a union that was blessed
15 with 13 children; and

16 WHEREAS, she says with pride and affection that her children, once scattered from Georgia
17 to Philadelphia, Detroit, and as far as California, now live within 90 minutes of Atlanta; and

18 WHEREAS, although she and Robert Respress separated after 20 years of marriage, Emma
19 was able to raise and care for her children, working for nine years at Assaf's Café on the main
20 street in Roberta, Georgia, starting at \$8.00 for each seven-day week; and

1 WHEREAS, when she came to Atlanta in the early 1960's, she worked at Piedmont Hospital,
2 then as a guardian for two young boys, and caring for her aging parents; and

3 WHEREAS, her diligence and energy have been evident in her children, five of whom
4 operate their own businesses; and

5 WHEREAS, she now has 37 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren, and 15
6 great-great-grandchildren, and she is happiest when the family gathers for family dinner on
7 every fifth Sunday.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body congratulate Emma Respress on her 90th birthday and express
10 sincere wishes for continued health and happiness for her and all her family.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body invite Mrs. Respress to appear
12 before the House of Representatives at a date and time to be set by the Speaker of the House
13 of Representatives.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mary Lizzie "Emma"
16 Respress.