

## House Resolution 1153

By: Representatives Jackson of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Post 1, and Stephens of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Post 2

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Dr. Olivia Smith Swanson; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the great State of Georgia is proud to call Dr. Olivia Smith Swanson, a native  
3 of Savannah, one of its own; and

4 WHEREAS, the impeccable academic credentials of this graduate of Beach-Cuyler High  
5 School include a bachelor's degree in home economics and certification in elementary  
6 education from Savannah State College and a master's degree in special education from  
7 Long Island University; and

8 WHEREAS, to address the needs of dyslexic and learning disabled students, Dr. Swanson  
9 continued her postgraduate education as a student of the Orton-Gillingham Program in  
10 Techniques in Teaching Language Skills from St. Joseph College and Hofstra University;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, in responding to a Christian call to service, she earned a doctorate in Christian  
13 education at Jacksonville Theological Seminary; and

14 WHEREAS, she left Savannah to pursue her education and teaching career in New York and  
15 returned to Savannah in 1986, returning to the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood home her  
16 great-grandfather bought in the 1870's; and

17 WHEREAS, she has become active in the Cuyler-Brownsville community and has diligently  
18 fought to revitalize the neighborhood that she knew as a child to be a warm, close-knit,  
19 family oriented, and upwardly mobile community; and

20 WHEREAS, to restore the fallen Cuyler-Brownsville area she had returned to, Dr. Swanson,  
21 with the help of a neighbor and a police officer, organized and was president of the Harden  
22 and 38th Streets Block Association; and

1 WHEREAS, through her tireless efforts and community involvement she was able to restore  
2 some of the warm, family oriented qualities Cuyler-Brownsville had lost; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Swanson is involved in many civic and social organizations in her  
4 community and is president of the Cuyler-Brownsville Neighborhood Association, on the  
5 advisory board of Mercy Housing, Inc., Southeast, a member of the Inter-Neighborhood  
6 Council, an organizer of the Concerned Citizens for Library Preservation, a board member  
7 of Historic Savannah Foundation, a member of the NAACP, and a faithful member of St.  
8 Philip AME Church.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
10 this body commends Dr. Olivia Smith Swanson for her dedicated work and community  
11 service.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Olivia Smith Swanson.