

House Resolution 1612

By: Representative Powell of the 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Remembering and honoring the life of Mr. Clay Finn Bell; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has lost one of its greatest soldiers, aviators,  
3 businesspersons, and family men with the passing of Mr. Clay Finn Bell on February 6,  
4 2004; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was born May 1, 1919, in Dublin, Georgia, to his loving parents D. W.  
6 Bell and Mattie Smith Bell; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he received his pilot's license at the age of 16 and later served his country at its  
8 greatest hour of need, serving in World War II as a member of the Army Air Corps 483rd  
9 Bombardment Group H and the 816 Squadron; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was a skilled and gifted B-17 bombardier who spent a portion of the  
11 war as a German prisoner of war; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 1946, he co-founded Bellcraft Manufacturing and for the next two years  
13 would commute between Dublin and Hartwell by plane; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1948, he moved to Hartwell to focus more closely on Bellcraft  
15 Manufacturing's operations and led the company as it grew to become one of the most  
16 respected companies in the apparel industry; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he retired in 1989 and as an avid outdoorsman enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing  
18 golf, and flying; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he was a member of the American Legion Post 109, a member of the Yarrab  
20 Shrine, Nancy Hart Masonic Lodge #690, Ducks Unlimited, a founder and former member

1 of the Lake Hartwell Bass Club, and a former member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots  
2 Association; and

3 WHEREAS, he was a member of Hartwell First Baptist Church and Doc Adams Sunday  
4 school class and is survived by his dear friend, Evelyn Holland, and an extended family of  
5 loving nieces.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
7 the members of this body remember and honor the life of Mr. Clay Finn Bell, his courageous  
8 service to his country, and his many contributions to this state.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family and friends of  
11 Mr. Clay Finn Bell.