

Senate Resolution 1046

By: Senator Seabaugh of the 28th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Coweta County African American Heritage Museum and Research Center;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Coweta County African American Heritage Museum and Research Center  
4 began as an idea in December of 2000 when the leadership of the Newnan-Coweta Historical  
5 Society expressed to new board member Cynthia Rosers the need for the society's greater  
6 involvement in the African American community; and after several meetings, an African  
7 American Heritage committee was formed to see what could be done; and

8 WHEREAS, the committee began its work and began to raise funds and institute projects,  
9 among them an oral interview project for the preservation of the memories of our senior  
10 citizens, conducted in conjunction with the African American Heritage committee of NCHS  
11 and Newnan High School's social studies department under the direction of teacher Steve  
12 Quizenberry; and

13 WHEREAS, this project, in which students conducted audio interviews of seven senior  
14 African Americans who were natives of this area, was the first in the ongoing efforts to  
15 document the African American history of Coweta County in recognition of the urgency of  
16 its preservation; and

17 WHEREAS, at the October, 2001, meeting of the committee a new name was adopted and  
18 officers were elected: the African American Heritage Committee became the African  
19 American Alliance, a program of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society; and

20 WHEREAS, the Alliance adopted by laws and articles of incorporation at the September,  
21 2002, meeting and attorney Graylin Ward processed the application for the application fees  
22 only, donating his attorney fees; the state approved the application October 17, 2002; and

1 WHEREAS, weekly committee meetings began in May, 2002, to prepare an application for  
2 the Heritage Grant sponsored by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division; Lynne Miller  
3 of the Chattahoochee Flint Regional Development Commission worked with Alliance  
4 members in preparation of this grant which will help provide funding for the first phase of  
5 the renovation process to stabilize the Powell Chapel Schoolhouse as a museum and research  
6 center; the grant package was delivered on July 3, 2002, a week before the deadline and  
7 included 34 letters of support; and in September, 2002, the Heritage 2002 grant of \$13,500  
8 was awarded; and

9 WHEREAS, the Alliance is now up and running and getting stronger every day, thanks to  
10 the many talented people who dedicated countless hours to the project, especially the  
11 Reverend Robert Welcome Sutton, the Alliance's spiritual leader from the beginning who  
12 passed away recently; Mrs. Gloria Herron, who is also no longer with us; Robert Jones;  
13 Cynthia Jenkins; Mrs. Ernestine Bridges; Reverend Smith; Henry Houzah; the Mose Martin  
14 family, the Sutton family, and the family of Mrs. Ruby Caswell; Dorothy Pope; Mathew  
15 Bailey; Jed Butler; Veronica Dennis; "Aunt" Helen Bowles; and many others too numerous  
16 to list but appreciated one and all; and

17 WHEREAS, the mission of the Alliance is to document and preserve the African American  
18 history of Coweta County, and the many dedicated volunteers are working hard to  
19 accomplish that mission.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
21 commend the Coweta County African American Heritage Museum and Research Center for  
22 its contributions to the community.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
24 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Cynthia Rosers.