

## House Resolution 337

By: Representatives Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, May of the 111<sup>th</sup>, O`Neal of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Hill of the 21<sup>st</sup>, Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Rotary International and inviting certain district governors thereof to appear  
2 before the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, is the  
4 world's first and one of the largest nonprofit service organizations; and
- 5 WHEREAS, there are over 1.2 million Rotary club members comprised of professional and  
6 business leaders in over 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" inspires members to provide  
8 humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace in  
9 the world; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Rotary funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise  
11 to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and  
12 education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in 1985, Rotary launched Polio Plus and spearheaded efforts with the World  
14 Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to  
15 immunize the children of the world against polio; and
- 16 WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the  
17 threshold of eradicating the disease; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Rotary is the world's largest privately funded source of international  
19 scholarships and promotes international understanding through scholarships, exchange  
20 programs, and humanitarian grants; and

1 WHEREAS, more than 35,000 students from 110 countries have studied abroad since 1947  
2 as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars; and

3 WHEREAS, Rotary's Group Study Exchange program has helped more than 46,000 young  
4 professionals explore their career fields in other countries; and

5 WHEREAS, 8,000 secondary school students each year experience life in another country  
6 through Rotary's Youth Exchange Program; and

7 WHEREAS, there are over 12,000 Rotary club members in more than 200 clubs throughout  
8 this state sponsoring service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, health,  
9 hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia's three Rotary Districts were able to fund matching grants for local  
11 community projects which include, but are not limited to, literacy, water projects, guide dog  
12 training facilities, special needs for boys and girls, wheelchairs, building of wheelchair  
13 ramps, and computers to reduce educational disadvantage of children; and these grants of  
14 \$60,000.00 with club matching totaled \$120,000.00 in one of three Georgia districts alone;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Georgia has the unique Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) whereby 72  
17 students from 31 countries will be sponsored and hosted by Georgia Rotary clubs during  
18 2004-2005. The annual average number of GRSP students over the last five years is 84  
19 students studying for one year at Georgia colleges and universities.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
21 the members of this body commend Rotary International upon the occasion of the 100th  
22 anniversary of the organization's founding.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the three district governors of Rotary International for  
24 the State of Georgia are invited to appear before the House of Representatives on such date  
25 and at such time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Rotary International.