

## House Resolution 393

By: Representatives Smith of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Cummings of the 16<sup>th</sup>, and Loudermilk of the 14<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the memory of Reverend H. F. (Parson) Joyner and dedicating the North Bridge
- 2 at East 2nd Avenue in Rome, Georgia, as the Parson H. F. Joyner Memorial Bridge; and for
- 3 other purposes.
  
- 4 WHEREAS, after coming to Georgia from his native Virginia in 1904, Parson Joyner was
- 5 employed for two years by the Seaboard Railroad, and then for seven years he edited a
- 6 weekly newspaper in Rockmart; and
  
- 7 WHEREAS, in 1913, he answered the call to the ministry and went to the Louisville
- 8 Seminary for three years; and
  
- 9 WHEREAS, Parson Joyner came to Rome, Georgia, in 1916 and accepted a position at the
- 10 Maple Street Baptist Church, which proved to be his first and last pastorate; and
  
- 11 WHEREAS, after seeing what was then the slums of Rome, he was inspired to a calling
- 12 which he could not overlook; he set out to prove that the best way to fight juvenile
- 13 delinquency was to give a child a ball instead of a rock; and
  
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1920, he opened a community house which later became the home of Parson
- 15 and Mrs. Joyner; and
  
- 16 WHEREAS, in November, 1920, the gymnasium was completed as part of the Maple Street
- 17 Community Center; and
  
- 18 WHEREAS, for many years, the Maple Street gym was used by every basketball team from
- 19 Atlanta to Chattanooga and was the headquarters for every major basketball tournament in
- 20 the area; professional basketball teams from throughout the country presented exhibitions at
- 21 the Maple Street gym; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1932, Parson Joyner resigned from the Maple Street Baptist Church in order  
2 to devote his energies full time to the Maple Street Community Center; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1932, the Maple Street Community Center became the first affiliate member  
4 of the Boys Club of America in Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Parson Joyner continues to live in the hearts and minds of adult men and  
6 women of old East Rome who spent their childhood at the Maple Street Community Center;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, he had a tremendously positive influence upon the lives of countless young  
9 boys and girls in the Rome area, many of whom might have gone astray without his Christian  
10 ministering.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 GEORGIA that the members of this body join in honoring the memory of a great Georgian,  
13 Reverend H. F. (Parson) Joyner, for his many contributions to the City of Rome and the State  
14 of Georgia.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Bridge at East 2nd Avenue in Rome, Georgia,  
16 is dedicated as the Parson H. F. Joyner Memorial Bridge; and the Department of  
17 Transportation is authorized and directed to place and maintain appropriate signs so  
18 designating the bridge.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
20 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of the late  
21 Reverend H. F. (Parson) Joyner and to the Department of Transportation.