

House Resolution 602

By: Representatives Heckstall of the 62nd, Holmes of the 61st, Bruce of the 64th, Lakly of the 72nd, Keen of the 179th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the exceptional life and expressing sorrow upon the tragic passing of Judge
2 Rowland W. Barnes; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Judge Rowland W. Barnes was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming; he moved to
4 Takoma Park, Maryland, at the age of nine months and remained there until his mother
5 remarried a career military man; and

6 WHEREAS, thereafter, he attended eight different schools in five different states, graduating
7 from Frankfurt American High School in Frankfurt, Germany; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Barnes started his freshman year of college at Grand Rapids Junior
9 College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and finished his undergraduate schooling at Lebanon
10 Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania; he graduated with a B.S. in economics and
11 business administration with a minor in history; and

12 WHEREAS, when he was about three-fourths of the way through the requirements for an
13 MBA at George Washington University, he decided to transfer to law school; he enrolled at
14 George Washington University Law School for his first year and then earned his degree at
15 Emory University in Atlanta; he was admitted to the Georgia Bar in November, 1972; and

16 WHEREAS, at different times he was a judge in the superior court, state court, magistrate
17 court, municipal court, and juvenile court; he presided over cases in Fulton County, Clayton
18 County, Hall County, Fannin County, Gilmer County, White County, and Pickens County;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, his first duty as a judge was on the Municipal Court of the City of Hapeville in
21 1982; after a time as assistant judge, he became the chief judge from 1990 to 1998; and

1 WHEREAS, he was appointed as the chief judge on the Municipal Court of the City of
2 Fairburn from 1990 to 1998, and he served on the Magistrate's Court of Fulton County as
3 a part-time magistrate from 1997 to August 5, 1998; and

4 WHEREAS, he was appointed to the Superior Court of Fulton County on August 5, 1998,
5 by Governor Zell Miller; he was elected to a four-year term in November, 2000; and

6 WHEREAS, he leaves behind his wife, Claudia, his two daughters, Holly and Kiley, and his
7 four stepchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, he was most proud of the following accomplishments: being elected to Who's
9 Who in American Colleges and Universities (1962); quarterbacking the Lebanon Valley
10 College football team that won the only league championship since the school was founded
11 in 1866; and making it through United States Air Force basic training; he went on to serve
12 in the National Guard and was called to active duty with the Air Force during the Pueblo
13 Crisis.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
15 this body honors the exceptional life and achievements of Judge Rowland W. Barnes and
16 offers its sincerest condolences to his family and friends upon his untimely and tragic
17 passing.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
19 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Judge
20 Rowland W. Barnes.