

House Resolution 902

By: Representatives Jackson of the 161st and Mangham of the 94th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pass a constitutional amendment to the
2 Constitution of the United States to allow for voluntary school prayer and the protection of
3 public religious speech; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, our country was founded on the precepts of freedom, liberty, diversity, and the
5 right of the people to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience; and

6 WHEREAS, from the very beginning of our nation to the founding of our first national
7 government in 1774, and from the Continental Congress to the Constitutional Convention
8 and the years after the establishment of our Constitution, voluntary prayer has been a
9 unifying and consoling force; and

10 WHEREAS, statements of belief in a Supreme Power and the virtue of seeking guidance,
11 strength, and protection from that Power are prevalent throughout our national history and
12 appear in our national documents as well as in virtually every state constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution, recognizing free exercise of religion as an
14 inalienable right, secured its protection with the First Amendment of the Constitution of the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, appreciation and respect not only for the beliefs and traditions of others but also
17 for the longstanding beliefs and traditions of the nation form a part of good citizenship; and

18 WHEREAS, one of the purposes of education is to prepare students to be good citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, voluntary student prayer formed a part of American public schools from their
20 origination in 1642 for over 300 years afterward until the U.S. Supreme Court in a 1962
21 ruling it said was "without precedent," struck down what it described as "voluntary,

1 non-denominational school prayer" and in 1985 the Supreme Court struck down voluntary,
2 silent student prayers.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
4 the United States Congress is urged to pass a "School Prayer Amendment" to the
5 Constitution reinstating protection for voluntary school prayer and other public religious
6 speech.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the United
9 States Congress representing the State of Georgia.