

House Resolution 919

By: Representative Jenkins of the 8th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Remembering and honoring the life of Mr. Watson Benjamin Dyer; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, born in Choestoe, Georgia, July 27, 1901, Mr. Watson Benjamin Dyer watched
3 the world change dramatically over the course of a long and useful life, which spanned 103
4 years, six months, and 17 days, until passing away February 13, 2005, in Rome, Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, his intense interest in the history of his ancestors led him to be a founding
6 member of the Northeast Georgia Genealogical and Historical Society of Rome, serving as
7 its president for 16 years and editor of its quarterly bulletin for the same length of time; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he assisted in founding the Dyer-Souther Heritage Association with the aims
9 of preserving the history and cultural foundations of early settlers to Union County, Georgia,
10 and served as the association's first historian and historian emeritus; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he began his teaching career in one-room schools, namely New Liberty and
12 Pine Top in Union County, Asbestos in White County, and Stonewall in Fairburn, Georgia,
13 and later taught printing and managed the printing shop at the Georgia School for the Deaf,
14 in Cave Spring, finishing his career in education with the Georgia Department of Education
15 as manager of the department's printing operations in Atlanta; and
- 16 WHEREAS, a distinguished member of what has been called "The Greatest Generation," he
17 served admirably in the United States Navy as Ship Photographer on the USS Bushnell,
18 submarine tender, during World War II, and, plying the Pacific waters between Hawaii and
19 the Midway Islands, his camera captured what for many soldiers were the last treasured
20 images they sent to loved ones back home; and
- 21 WHEREAS, his lofty patriotism and love for America was shown by his lifetime
22 membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, and his assistance with genealogical

1 research aided many in their efforts to join the Sons and Daughters of the American
2 Revolution; and

3 WHEREAS, he wrote, compiled, and published five books of genealogy and history, namely
4 *The Families of Dyer-Souther Family History, 1832-1965; Collins-Jackson Family History;*
5 *Dyer Family History from England to America, 1600s to 1980; Dyer Family History, Revised*
6 *Edition; and Souther Family History; and*

7 WHEREAS, as librarian at the Georgia School for the Deaf and later the Library for the
8 Blind in Atlanta, his late wife, Jewell Elizabeth James Dyer, shared his interests in history
9 and education and assisted him in the publication of his five books of history; and

10 WHEREAS, these books appear in genealogical and research libraries in Georgia and other
11 states, providing excellent resources for genealogical research; and

12 WHEREAS, his sharp mind and ability to recall facts and relate history led many to his home
13 seeking assistance with research, and he selflessly wrote countless letters to answer inquiries
14 and had many telephone conversations on history and family connections; and

15 WHEREAS, as reflected by a resolution published in the July 27, 2001 Congressional
16 Record, this esteemed Georgian was recognized by the United States House of
17 Representatives on his 100th birthday for his outstanding contributions as a United States
18 citizen; and

19 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush sent him a congratulatory letter on his 103rd
20 birthday, July 27, 2004, commending him for his service to America, and it is only fitting
21 that his legacy to the State of Georgia be appropriately remembered and honored.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body remember and honor Mr. Watson Benjamin Dyer, his exemplary
24 citizenship, and extraordinary achievements and extend to his beloved family the
25 appreciation of a grateful state and nation.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the siblings of Mr. Watson
28 Benjamin Dyer, Mrs. Desma Dyer Fry and Mr. Odell Bluford Dyer, and to the Dyer-Souther
29 Heritage Association.