

House Resolution 1088

By: Representative Dukes of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the first students to integrate the Baker County schools; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the road to racial equality in Georgia is paved by the heroic contributions of
3 countless individuals willing to take a stand for freedom and justice even in the face of
4 bigotry and intimidation; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the integration of Baker County schools began in 1965 thanks to the following
6 students of East Baker High School and East Baker Elementary School: Ann Lebern Benton,
7 Sandra Jones, Henry E. Williams, Rubertha Hall, Deborah Walker, C. S. Jackson, Roosevelt
8 Williams, Patricia James, Eddie Williams, Herman Williams, Carrie Miller-Drake, Marvin
9 Miller, Nathaniel Holt, Betty Broadway, Edward Oliver, Annie Benton-Wright, Diane
10 Cowart, Betty L. Williams, Artricia Hawkins-Batten, Missouri Cowart-Edward, Sandra Coe,
11 Betty Blackshear, and Vernice Lofton; and
- 12 WHEREAS, although some of them were perhaps too young at the time to fully appreciate
13 the significance of their actions, these individuals' entrance into previously segregated
14 schools was a courageous and imperative step toward a more equal society, and all of these
15 pioneers of liberty have rendered to their communities a priceless service and a lasting
16 legacy; and
- 17 WHEREAS, in celebration of their monumental accomplishment, the East Baker Historical
18 Society will be honoring this distinguished group of individuals; and
- 19 WHEREAS, considering the enormous debt Georgians of all colors owe to trailblazers such
20 as these students who were a part of the integration of Baker County schools, it is abundantly
21 fitting and proper for this body to honor this remarkable group of patriots.
- 22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body join together in commending the first students to integrate Baker

1 County schools and express their eternal gratitude for the courage and perseverance of these
2 outstanding citizens.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
4 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the above named
5 individuals.