

House Resolution 1493

By: Representatives Byrd of the 20th, Franklin of the 43rd, Johnson of the 37th, Lindsey of the 54th, Keown of the 173rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering the Constitution of the United States of America and designating September
2 17, 2006, as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in May of 1787, 55 of America's brightest statesmen and ablest and wisest
4 thinkers, all leaders in their respective states, men who understood the principles of freedom
5 and representative government, assembled together, many believe, by divine Providence in
6 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they, against great odds, created, through open debate and
7 compromise, a document of law that would literally change the world; and

8 WHEREAS, on September 17, 1787, 39 brave and courageous men completed, then signed
9 this newly created document, the Constitution of the United States, at a time when 99 percent
10 of the world's population was living under tyranny; and

11 WHEREAS, this Constitution, upon ratification by all 13 states, after often bitter and divisive
12 debate, became the "Law of the Land," a Constitution unlike any other Constitution ever
13 written, established a government where the people were sovereign, and became the
14 Constitution which the Georgia General Assembly takes an oath to defend; and

15 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States has been and continues to be a "Beacon
16 of Hope for Freedom" for people throughout the world, drawing them to America in
17 unprecedented numbers; and

18 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States, in its wisdom, did establish, via Public Law
19 108-447, Section 111, and signed into law on December 8, 2004, by President George W.
20 Bush, language that created an annual "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day" to emphasize
21 the importance of the Constitution of the United States to all Americans by providing for
22 educational material on the Constitution for all new federal employees, and further provides
23 that on September 17 of each year each educational institution throughout the United States

1 receiving federal funds shall hold an educational program on the Constitution for the students
2 served by such educational institution; and

3 WHEREAS, the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution for the
4 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in 1787 commissioned the filming of a
5 video entitled "A More Perfect Union," that was filmed in Williamsburg, Virginia, in the
6 replica of Constitution Hall, with said video later becoming the source of a Public Broadcast
7 System television documentary; and

8 WHEREAS, said video is now available for use by all Georgia school systems to comply
9 with the provisions of Public Law 108-447, Section 111, to help educate all Georgia students
10 on how the Constitution of the United States was created under conditions few Georgians
11 today can possibly comprehend.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 GEORGIA that the General Assembly hereby declares September 17, 2006, as Constitution
14 Day and Citizenship Day in Georgia.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly hereby encourages all Georgia
16 school boards to consider using the video, "A More Perfect Union," as a means to partially
17 comply with the provisions of Public Law 108-447, Section 111, and to more effectively
18 educate all Georgia students about the powerful principles of freedom embodied in the
19 Constitution of the United States and about the wise men, American's founding fathers, who
20 through four long, hot months debated, argued, and finally compromised in order to bring
21 forth a Constitution of law making all mankind free and equal, subject to the "Laws of Nature
22 and Nature's God."

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly establishes Constitution Day and
24 Citizenship Day as an annual event, encouraging every citizen of Georgia, especially its
25 students, to read the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year and then offer
26 a "Toast to the Constitution of the United States" in reverent remembrance of America's
27 unique document of freedom. A proposed toast to the Constitution of the United States is:
28 "A toast to American's founding fathers, to those wise men raised up by God to create
29 American's foundational document of law, the Constitution of the United States of America,
30 a document so profound that it baffles dictators, so strong that it binds together warring
31 factions, so timely that it protects individual rights, so weak that it protects the privacy of
32 individuals from unwarranted intrusion, so enlightening that it has freed millions from

1 tyrants, and given hope to the hopeless worldwide, to the Constitution of the United States
2 of America and the just principles from which it is created."