

House Resolution 1929

By: Representatives Reece of the 27th, Mills of the 25th, and Rogers of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Expressing regret at the passing of Reuben Aaron "R.A." Miller; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Reuben Aaron "R.A." Miller was born on July 22, 1912, the youngest of eight
3 children living on a hundred acres of hills and gullies near Rabbittown, Georgia, where he
4 lived until he was moved to a nursing home in Commerce in 2004; and
- 5 WHEREAS, six months before he was born, his father was shot and killed by a neighbor who
6 wanted to control a public road; and
- 7 WHEREAS, at the age of 12, Mr. Miller left school and walked to work in the nearby cotton
8 mill for 60 years; and
- 9 WHEREAS, after marrying, he became an ordained minister in the Freewill Baptist Church
10 and began preaching at tent revival meetings all over northeast Georgia and installed a public
11 address system on his car to preach from the highways; and
- 12 WHEREAS, after leaving the cotton mill in the 1970's, he started making folk art using tin,
13 bicycle parts, and scrap metal; and
- 14 WHEREAS, his earliest creations were whirligigs, but he is best known for the painted cut
15 out animals that he modeled after those figures from which he gleaned inspiration in *National*
16 *Geographic* magazine; and
- 17 WHEREAS, his artwork has appeared in Athens based rock band R.E.M.'s videos and been
18 exhibited at the Atlanta High Museum of Art, the Museum of American Folk Art in New
19 York, Brenau University, and galleries worldwide in addition to being on permanent exhibit
20 at Atlanta's Olympic Park; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Mr. Miller is considered an "outsider artist" more so than a folk artist, creating

1 an astounding number of pieces over the past 35 years and achieving a high level of
2 appreciation within the sphere of Outsider Art with his work featured in several survey books
3 about Folk and Outsider Art and in numerous articles for art journals and newspapers; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Miller, who passed away on March 7, 2006, at the age of 93, weaved into
5 the art he created the story of his life: closeness to the land, faith, and curiosity about the
6 world; and

7 WHEREAS, this delightful, creative, and inspirational Georgian will leave an unfillable void
8 in the hearts of his collectors, friends, family, and the citizens of this state.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
10 the members of this body honor the life of Reuben Aaron "R.A." Miller, express regret at his
11 passing, and extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
13 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Reuben Aaron
14 "R.A." Miller.