

## House Resolution 2026

By: Representatives Lunsford of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Richardson of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Keen of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Burkhalter of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Fleming of the 117<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Honorable and Mrs. John P. Yates; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, John Phillip Yates was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1921, one  
3 of seven children born to L. Lamar Yates and Eunice Griffin Yates in Spalding County,  
4 Georgia. Annie Harris Yates was born February 17, 1923, in Pike County, Georgia, one of  
5 eight children born to Emory Harris and Jesse Ogletree Harris; and

6 WHEREAS, John Yates met Annie Harris in Pomona Methodist Church in 1940. John fell  
7 in love with her beautiful brown eyes and her piano playing. She was bowled over with his  
8 big blue eyes. They were married on February 17, 1942, in Yuma, Arizona. They are the  
9 parents of three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. John graduated  
10 from Spalding High School and Georgia State University. Annie graduated from Milner  
11 High School and a business school; and

12 WHEREAS, John entered the Army in World War II as a private and was a captain at war's  
13 end. He was a Liaison Pilot, directing artillery fire from a Piper Cub airplane in Europe. He  
14 was awarded the Air Medal six times for 210 flights in combat; and

15 WHEREAS, John and Annie Yates are patriotic Americans who are always striving for the  
16 security and freedom of all. John has been honored for his military service and for playing  
17 a key role in the opening of the battle lines at the Battle of the Bulge and being a military  
18 observer of the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp; and

19 WHEREAS, after the war, John worked for 35 years with Ford Motor Company, ending his  
20 career as manager of the Los Angeles Parts Distribution Center. Annie was an accountant  
21 and homemaker; and

22 WHEREAS, John is serving the people of his district as a member of the Georgia House of  
23 Representatives. He is chairman of the Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee and a

1 member of the Appropriations Committee, the Higher Education Subcommittee of  
2 Appropriations, the Motor Vehicles Committee, and the Reapportionment Committee. He  
3 has served for 16 years, representing more than 50,000 citizens. He has helped many citizens  
4 through problems with government. Education has been a top priority for John and he has  
5 helped secure funding for Griffin Technical College and for other educational institutions in  
6 his district. Perhaps his greatest achievement in his work was helping to bring the University  
7 of Georgia's Griffin Campus into existence; and

8 WHEREAS, John joined Pomona Methodist Church at age eight and was a member from  
9 1929 to 1960. They retired in 1981 and returned to the farm on which John was born and on  
10 which they now live. John continues his agricultural endeavors, providing fresh vegetables  
11 and berries to friends and neighbors throughout the seasons of each year. He rejoined his  
12 home church in 1981 and has worked hard in several positions since, including treasurer for  
13 more than 20 years, member of board of trustees, Sunday school teacher, as well as having  
14 written the church history and leading the building of a walking trail. Annie has been a  
15 member for many years, serving in many local and district positions with the United  
16 Methodist Women and leading the church choir. She also was church organist for many  
17 years. When work was to be done at the church, John and Annie always were valuable  
18 participants, raking leaves, moving grass, baking cakes, cooking pancakes, and installing a  
19 sprinkler system. Annie is a superb cook and loves to entertain friends; and

20 WHEREAS, John and Annie Yates were in the movie *Murder in Coweta County*, a portion  
21 of which was filmed at Pomona United Methodist Church. Both exercised their musical  
22 talents in the movie; and

23 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Honorable and Mrs. John P. Yates be commended  
24 for their contributions and many years of service to their church, community, and state.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body commend Honorable and Mrs. John P. Yates for their many years  
27 of service to others and their devotion to each other through almost 65 years of marriage.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
29 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable and Mrs. John P.  
30 Yates.