

House Resolution 481

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Holmes of the 61st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Thomas of the 55th, Sinkfield of the 60th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing regret at the passing of Ms. Maenell Dixon Dempsey; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Maenell Dixon Dempsey was born in Newnan, Georgia, on November 8,
3 1912, the daughter of William L. Dixon, Jr., and Opal H. Dixon, and she graduated from the
4 Newnan public schools and went on to graduate from Spelman College in 1933 and the
5 University of California, Berkeley in 1944; and

6 WHEREAS, she began her career as a teacher of French and English in LaGrange, Georgia,
7 in 1933, and she retired in 1977 after a long and distinguished career in education with the
8 State of Georgia at the elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels, and
9 she taught at Tuskegee Institute, Georgia State College (now Savannah State University),
10 Atlanta University, Columbia University, New York University, and Northwestern
11 University; and

12 WHEREAS, she is remembered as a trailblazer in education for children in Georgia and was
13 lauded for her work as a "Jeanes Supervisor," one of a cadre of teachers employed
14 throughout the southern states for the purpose of improving the school and community life
15 among rural African Americans, and she was a master teacher who assisted local teachers
16 in the segregated schools of the rural South.

17 WHEREAS, she was married to Alford J. Dempsey, Sr., for 52 years, and they had two sons,
18 Alford J. Dempsey, Jr., and Albert Jean-Pierre Dempsey, and her beloved husband preceded
19 her in death 12 years to the day before her own death; and

20 WHEREAS, she served on many boards, including the Mozley Park Advisory Council,
21 Families First, the Metropolitan Christian Council, and the American Association of
22 University Women, and she held offices with the American Cancer Society, the Georgia
23 Association of Educators, and many other organizations, and she was the first African
24 American to be the Georgia Department of Education's state teacher education coordinator,

1 liaison to Teacher Corps, and the president of the Georgia Association of Educators, and she
2 was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and past president of the Alumnae
3 Chapter.

4 WHEREAS, this gracious lady and pioneer educator passed away peacefully on February 2,
5 2007, at the age of 94.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
7 the members of this body express regret at the passing of Ms. Maenell Dixon Dempsey and
8 extend condolences to her family and friends.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Maenell
11 Dixon Dempsey.