

House Resolution 601

By: Representative Powell of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and remembering the life of Owen Alfred Atkinson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its most distinguished citizens with the passing
3 of Owen Alfred "Red" Atkinson on February 21, 2007, at the age of 83; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born in Hartwell, Georgia, on January 29, 1924, and grew up during the
5 Great Depression, living with his family in Tampa, Florida; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he graduated at the age of 17 from Hartwell High School, where he played wide
7 receiver for the football team; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he attended Mercer University, nobly interrupting his studies to enlist in the
9 United States Navy during World War II, serving as Boatswain's Mate Third Class aboard
10 the USS *Knapp* in the Pacific Theatre; and
- 11 WHEREAS, as a rescue swimmer, he heroically saved a number of lives, retrieving stranded
12 sailors and airmen; and
- 13 WHEREAS, upon returning to his beloved Georgia, he married the love of his life, Patricia,
14 and settled in the Reed Creek community; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he became a pillar of the Hart County community, serving on the Hart County
16 School Board, as a Hart County Commissioner, and as a moderator of the Hebron Baptist
17 Association, where he was instrumental in starting the district Hebron Baptist Association
18 Youth Basketball League; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he was a long-time employee of Owens Corning Fiberglass, where he retired
20 as a production scheduler, and he continued to work in the lawn and garden department of
21 the Hartwell Wal-Mart until the age of 80; and

1 WHEREAS, in life he commanded the esteem of his fellow Georgians, and his dedication
2 to serving his community was surpassed only by his love for his family; and

3 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that we extend sympathy to his family, colleagues, and
4 friends.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
6 the members of this body join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of Owen
7 Alfred Atkinson and extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Owen Alfred
10 Atkinson.