

## House Resolution 610

By: Representative Burns of the 157<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Neil Wilkins Ratchford; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Neil Wilkins Ratchford, a distinguished leader, husband, father, grandfather,  
3 and exemplary citizen of Effingham County, has recently been awarded the Rotary Club of  
4 Effingham County's Lifetime Service Above Self Award; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Ratchford cofounded the Fifth Sunday Men's Breakfast with Lawton  
6 McDonald Nease, Jr., to provide an opportunity for men of faith to express their affection for  
7 their families, churches, and communities and partake of an excellent meal of Ratchford's  
8 sausage, grits, eggs, and biscuits; and

9 WHEREAS, the Fifth Sunday Breakfast has served an estimated 10,000 men during its 50  
10 years of operation, making it the longest running activity of its kind in the region; and it has  
11 hosted a number of notable guests, including President Jimmy Carter, U.S. Senators Sam  
12 Nunn and Mack Mattingly, numerous congressmen, and state and local officials; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Ratchford has served his country as a member of the National Guard, is the  
14 owner and operator of Ratchford's Market with its famous Ratchford's Sausage, and has been  
15 a member of the Republican Party for more than 50 years; and

16 WHEREAS, he has shared more than 50 years of wonderful marriage with Mary Butler  
17 Ratchford, and they are blessed with four children; and

18 WHEREAS, he has served his community as a member of the Guyton City Council, a  
19 director of the Effingham County Hospital Authority, and a founding director for the First  
20 National Bank of Effingham County; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Ratchford is a fourth generation member of the historic Guyton Methodist  
22 Church and has served marvelously as chef for church gatherings; and

1 WHEREAS, he is esteemed throughout the community for his personable demeanor, and he  
2 has never hesitated to provide advice and assistance to a neighbor in need.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
4 the members of this body join in honoring Neil Wilkins Ratchford, commending his  
5 continuing service to Effingham, the State of Georgia, and the United States, and extending  
6 to him their sincerest best wishes for his future health and happiness.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
8 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Neil Wilkins Ratchford.