

House Resolution 817

By: Representative Sims of the 169th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and remembering the life of John Strickland Gibson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, John Strickland Gibson, a celebrated attorney and United States Congressman,
3 was one of the most distinguished community servants in the history of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born in Charlton County on January 3, 1893, to William Owen Gibson
5 and Julia Ann Vickery Gibson, and he was married to Bessie Thomas in April, 1917; and
- 6 WHEREAS, after moving to Douglas and graduating from Georgia State Normal College, he
7 began his legal career at the office of George Mingledorff while he finished a correspondence
8 course from LaSalle Extension University and prepared for the bar exam; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he was an aggressive courtroom lawyer who specialized in cross-examination
10 and was known for his innate ability to sense the mood of the jury and for his colorful and
11 frequently caustic methods of argument; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he became one of Georgia's most feared and admired attorneys, and his
13 excellence as a trial lawyer led to his election in 1934 as solicitor general, a position
14 equivalent to today's district attorney; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Gibson's popularity continued to grow, and he was elected as a Democrat to the
16 United States Congress after the congressman from Georgia's Eighth District, W. Ben Gibbs,
17 passed away in 1940; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Congressman Gibson served the public tirelessly through the difficult years of
19 World War II, and he is credited with playing a decisive role in the passing of the
20 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G.I. Bill; and

1 WHEREAS, during the week of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, a House and Senate
2 conference committee was deadlocked on the bill which would provide housing, education,
3 and job benefits to returning veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, Congressman Gibson received word that the bill was in jeopardy while he was
5 at home in Douglasville, Georgia, recovering from an illness, and in a spectacular overnight
6 journey, he rushed to Washington to remind his peers that American soldiers needed their full
7 support.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
9 the members of this body join in remembering the life John Strickland Gibson and honoring
10 his tireless dedication to serving his community, state, and country.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Department of
13 the American Legion.