

House Resolution 829

By: Representatives Porter of the 143rd, Buckner of the 130th, Hugley of the 133rd, Ashe of the 56th, Benfield of the 85th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the memory of Honorable Ogden Doremus and expressing regret at his passing;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, news of the passing of Honorable Ogden Doremus, judge of the State Court of
4 Candler County and known as "Georgia's Mr. Environment" for his longtime preminent
5 state-wide leadership in the causes of environmental protection and wise stewardship of
6 natural resources, is received with deep regret by this body; and

7 WHEREAS, the life led by this distinguished gentleman of 85 years rendered his name dear
8 to the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow citizens alike; and

9 WHEREAS, an Atlanta native, as a young man he courageously served his country as a
10 combat veteran in World War II and fought in Normandy on D-Day; and

11 WHEREAS, after the war, he graduated from Emory University School of Law in 1949, and
12 over the course of his distinguished legal career he joined his father at the law firm that
13 evolved into King and Spalding, later moved his practice to Savannah and then Metter, and
14 capped his legal career by serving with distinction as judge of the State Court of Candler
15 County from 1985 to 2005, assuming senior judge status thereafter; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to his many accomplishments and contributions to the legal
17 profession, his lawyer's acumen made him a stellar lobbyist for and leader of the cause of
18 environmental protection to which he was so deeply committed and to which he passionately
19 and effectively contributed so much of his time and efforts for so many years; and

20 WHEREAS, by way of example, in the early 1950s he began working to protect the
21 environment while serving as a member of the Atlanta Board of Aldermen (now the Atlanta
22 City Council); successfully lobbied for a state law to stop sawmills from dumping waste into
23 Peachtree Creek; battled with Chatham County officials over inadequate sewage disposal in

1 the late 1960s; helped found and served as a trustee of the Georgia Conservancy, now one
2 of this state's oldest and most respected environmental advocacy groups, in 1973; was
3 instrumental in the passage of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act of 1970, for which he
4 was later honored by the General Assembly; and later co-founded the Georgia Center for
5 Law in the Public Interest, a nonprofit legal arm of the environmental movement in this state,
6 in 1991; and

7 WHEREAS, his unfailing, lifelong determination and courage inspired others to speak out,
8 and he never flagged in his long fight to protect Georgia's precious natural resources, even
9 to the end; and

10 WHEREAS, while in life he commanded the esteem of his fellow Georgians, in his death we
11 mingle our sympathies with the grief of his family, friends, and fellow citizens.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body honor the memory of Honorable Ogden Doremus and express their
14 regret at his passing.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
16 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Honorable
17 Ogden Doremus.