

House Resolution 1163

By: Representatives Powell of the 29th, Benton of the 31st, McCall of the 30th, and Bearden of the 68th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the bicentennial birthday of Jefferson Finis Davis and declaring 2008 as the
- 2 "Year of Davis"; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was born in Christian County, Kentucky, on June 3, 1808;
- 4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis attended the United States Military Academy at West
- 6 Point on an appointment of President James Monroe, graduating in 1828; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he married Miss Sarah Knox Taylor on June 17, 1835, and remained happily
- 8 married until her death in September, 1835, after which he married Miss Varina Banks
- 9 Howell; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis pursued a life as a Mississippi cotton planter, and lived
- 11 in retirement until 1843, when he entered politics and went on to be elected to the United
- 12 States Congress as a Representative in 1845; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in June, 1846, he resigned his seat in the House of Representatives to establish
- 14 a regiment that would become the 1st Mississippi Volunteer Rifles and fought in the Battle
- 15 of Buena Vista where he was severely wounded but remained in the saddle until the end of
- 16 the fight, gaining him the title of "Hero of Buena Vista"; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was appointed by the Governor of Mississippi to fill a vacancy in the United
- 18 States Senate in August, 1847; and in January, 1848, the legislature unanimously elected him
- 19 Senator and reelected him in 1850 for a full term; and
- 20 WHEREAS, he was named chairman of the Senate committee on military affairs and served
- 21 as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce; and

1 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis returned to the United States Senate in March, 1857, and
2 served until he resigned when Mississippi seceded on January 9, 1861.

3 WHEREAS, on January 21, 1861, Senator Jefferson Finis Davis took formal leave of the
4 United States Senate in a speech in which he defended the cause of the South and, in closing,
5 begged pardon of all whom he had ever offended; and

6 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the
7 Confederate States of America, serving from 1861 until 1865, leading a new nation at war;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis had many ties to Georgia as he held the last Confederate
10 cabinet meeting in Washington, Georgia; he was captured by the United States Cavalry
11 outside the town of Irwinville, Georgia; and he visited numerous times after the war for
12 celebrations, dedications, and reunions; and

13 WHEREAS, upon his death on December 6, 1889, in New Orleans, Louisiana, he returned
14 to Georgia one final time on his 1,200 mile funeral train trip to Richmond, Virginia, and
15 became the first and only president to lie in state at the state capitol in Atlanta on May 29,
16 1893; and

17 WHEREAS, on December 16, 1897, the State of Georgia enacted a law making Jefferson
18 Finis Davis's birthday a state holiday.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body do hereby declare that the year 2008 shall be known as the "Year
21 of Davis" and encourage the citizenry to organize, publicize, promote, and attend any
22 appropriate observances and commemorations in celebration of this event.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
24 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia divisions of the
25 Sons of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Children of the
26 Confederacy.