

House Resolution 1164

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st, Bearden of the 68th, England of the 108th, Powell of the 29th, and Bridges of the 10th

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 to Georgia Revolutionary War veteran Samuel
4 Emory Davis and Jane Cook Davis in Christian County, Kentucky, on June 3, 1808; and

5 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis attended the United States Military Academy at West
6 Point on the appointment of President James Monroe, graduating in 1828; and

7 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis entered politics and was elected to the United States
8 Congress as a Representative in 1845; and

9 WHEREAS, in June, 1846, he resigned his seat in the House of Representatives to establish
10 a regiment that would become the 1st Mississippi Volunteer Rifles; and

11 WHEREAS, he was appointed by the Governor of Mississippi to fill a vacancy in the United
12 States Senate in August, 1847; and in January, 1848, the legislature unanimously elected him
13 Senator and reelected him in 1850 for a full term; and

14 WHEREAS, he was named chairman of the Senate committee on military affairs, and went
15 on to serve as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce; and

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis held the last Confederate cabinet meeting in Washington,
5 Georgia, on May 4, 1865; and

6 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was captured by the United States Calvary outside the
7 town of Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865; and

8 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis would visit the State of Georgia numerous times after the
9 war for celebrations, dedications, and reunions; and

10 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis died on December 6, 1889, in New Orleans, Louisiana,
11 and returned to Georgia one final time on his 1,200 mile funeral train trip to Richmond,
12 Virginia, and became the first and only president to lie in state at the state capitol in Atlanta
13 on May 29, 1893; and

14 WHEREAS, on December 16, 1897, the State of Georgia enacted a law making Jefferson
15 Finis Davis's birthday a state holiday; and

16 WHEREAS, on August 18, 1905, the General Assembly created and named Jeff Davis
17 County in his honor; and

18 WHEREAS, on June 3, 1939, the State of Georgia established the Jefferson Davis Memorial
19 State Historic Site in Irwinville, Georgia.

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

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