

House Resolution 1351

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st, McKillip of the 115th, Heard of the 114th, Kaiser of the 59th, and Smith of the 113th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Judge Joseph J. Gaines; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Judge Joseph J. Gaines was a native of Elbert County; and
- 3 WHEREAS, he served in the U. S. Army in Europe from 1946 until 1948, and upon
4 graduation, he attended Tufts University in Boston and the University of Georgia, where he
5 earned his law degree in 1952 and a bachelor of science degree in 1953; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Upon graduation, he opened a law office in Athens, and in 1963, he was
7 appointed City Attorney in Athens, where he served in that capacity until he was appointed
8 to the superior court bench on November 1, 1976; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Judge Gaines served as Judge of the Superior Court for the Western Judicial
10 Circuit for 26 years, being named chief judge in 1991 and serving in that capacity until his
11 retirement in January, 2003, at which time he took senior judge status and was still holding
12 court at age 79; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he was active in the local and state bar associations, serving as president of the
14 Athens Bar Association, an alternate member of the board of governors of the Georgia Bar
15 Association, president of the Western Circuit Bar Association, and a longstanding member
16 of the State Bar of Georgia; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was a member of the Judicial Council of Georgia and the Judicial Planning
18 Committee serving as chairman and vice chairman, he served as Amicus Curiae of the
19 Supreme Court in recognition of his distinguished service and contributions to the
20 improvement of the administration of justice; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Judge Gaines was the recipient of the ARCH award for public service from the
22 University of Georgia; and

1 WHEREAS, over his long years of service, he was a member of numerous boards and
2 committees including Gridiron Secret Society, the Jaycees, the Bartram Society, the Rotary
3 Club, and he was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Athens; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Gaines was an avid historian, amassing a large collection of books on
5 American history from the colonial period through the Civil War, and he was especially
6 knowledgeable of Georgia history and visited many battle sites throughout South Carolina
7 and Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Gaines is survived by his wife, Agnes; daughter, Karen; sons, Joseph,
9 Michael, and Mark; and grandchildren, Adrienne, Joseph, Houston, Leslie, Kathleen,
10 Madison, and Alyse; and

11 WHEREAS, all who were privileged to know this distinguished Georgian join his family in
12 mourning his loss.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
14 this body hereby honors the life and memory of Judge Joseph J. Gaines and expresses its
15 appreciation of his many contributions to his community, state, and country.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
17 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Judge Joseph
18 J. Gaines.