

House Resolution 2124

By: Representative Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Barbara Stegall for her service to beautify Rome; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Barbara Stegall is the recipient of a Heart of the Community award sponsored  
3 by the Redmond Regional Medical Center and produced by the Heart of the Community  
4 Board of Governors; and

5 WHEREAS, for years, Barbara Stegall has carved out large portions of her day to make  
6 Rome a more beautiful place in which to work and live; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of Rome, Barbara seemed to spring straight from the Harbin Hospital  
8 on Third Avenue in the 1930's into her life of community service. She graduated from Rome  
9 High School, married Jo Stegall on December 27, 1954, and lived on the Emory campus  
10 while he attended dental school. Both returned to Rome in 1958 and soon Barbara graduated  
11 from Berry College, cum laude. Quickly, she received her realtor's license, and, finally, her  
12 broker's license; and

13 WHEREAS, a behind-the-scenes player, Barbara helped turn Rome into a modern bustling  
14 city known as a botanical bastion. She often says that she treasures her membership in Green  
15 Thumb Garden Club. She served as president of that group (1965-66), president of the Rome  
16 Federation (1975-77), District Garden Club Therapy Chairman (1975-81), Landscape Design  
17 Committee (1987-89) and Historic Preservation (1989-93), and, finally, as part of the Blue  
18 Star Marker effort (1993-2007). She also represented the last three committees at the state  
19 level from 1987-1995; and

20 WHEREAS, her ascent to the upper echelons of the world of gardening is verified by a quick  
21 tour of her former historic home on Third Avenue, which she gracefully opened on so many  
22 occasions to Chamber of Commerce tours. Her garden was one of only three in Rome  
23 featured in "The Gardens of Georgia," a definitive landscape book published in 1989. A  
24 woman of boundless energy, Barbara managed to maintain her beautiful gardens despite the

1 fact that she was often not at home. More often than not, she could be seen selling real estate  
2 around Rome and Floyd County. Romans knew best that in the process, she did an equally  
3 great job of selling her community; and

4 WHEREAS, some of the benefactors of her gardening therapy were patients at Northwest  
5 Georgia Regional Hospital. Her "Alley of Love," the planting of 86 sugar maples, did more  
6 than relieve the hospital's clinical appearance. It brought awards, honors, and cooperation  
7 among the Department of Human Resources, the City of Rome, Sears, and local garden  
8 clubs; and

9 WHEREAS, between 1979 and 1989, most of Barbara's days were spent focused on city  
10 beautification. She served as the first chairperson for the Board of Review for the Rome  
11 Historic District, traveling to cities across Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, through the Blue Star Marker program, she covered the district placing over 20  
13 markers in tribute to our armed forces; and

14 WHEREAS, an active member of First United Methodist Church, Barbara is married to Jo  
15 Stegall and they have three children, Emily Stuckey, Jo Jr., and Ben. They have six  
16 grandchildren.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
18 the members of this body commend Barbara Stegall on her efforts to beautify the city of  
19 Rome and wish her good health and many more gardening successes.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
21 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Barbara Stegall.