

## House Resolution 1711

By: Representatives Rogers of the 26<sup>th</sup>, Mills of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Collins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, and Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. James Mathis, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Mr. James Mathis, Sr., on July 12, 2009; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis was born on September 24, 1924, in Hall County, Georgia, a  
5 beloved son of the late Elmer Mathis and Nancy Fuller Mathis; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he graduated as class valedictorian from Lyman Hall High School and earned  
7 a bachelor's degree from Young Harris College; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
9 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting democracy and his fellow Americans in  
10 the European theater during World War II; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis founded Home Federal Savings and Loan, helped establish  
12 Gainesville State College in 1966, founded the Home Federal Curb Market, and was  
13 instrumental in the formation of the Northeast Georgia History Center on the Brenau  
14 University campus; and
- 15 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Mathis was a member of Gainesville's  
16 First Baptist Church, where he served on the building committee and helped construct the  
17 Family Life Center; and
- 18 WHEREAS, committed to uplifting the lives of Gainesville's youth, Mr. Mathis diligently  
19 and conscientiously devoted his time, talents, and energy to Boy Scout Troop 26, earning the  
20 Silver Beaver Award and helping his three sons attain the rank of Eagle Scout; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathis was united in love and marriage to his wife of 63 years, Frances,  
22 on March 16, 1946, and was blessed with three sons, James, Phillip, and Gregory; four  
23 grandchildren, Kelly, Katie, Randi, and Holly; and four great-grandchildren; and

24 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
25 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
26 family and friends were admired by others; and

27 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
28 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he  
29 made this world a better place in which to live; and

30 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Mathis will long be remembered for  
31 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend will  
32 be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
34 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. James Mathis, Sr., and  
35 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. James  
38 Mathis, Sr.