

House Resolution 1867

By: Representatives Frazier of the 123rd, Brooks of the 63rd, Murphy of the 120th, Howard of the 121st, Smith of the 122nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Keysville Mayor Emma Gresham and inviting her to be
2 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Honorable Emma Gresham has long been recognized by the citizens of this
4 state for the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment
5 to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, this dedicated public servant has diligently and conscientiously devoted over
7 two decades of her time, talents, and energy to improving the lives of her neighbors as mayor
8 of the Town of Keysville and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor Gresham was born in 1925 in Reidsville, Georgia, the beloved daughter
10 of Reverend Marvin B. Rhodes, an African Methodist Episcopal pastor and teacher, and Ida
11 Rhodes, a church missionary and Sunday school teacher; and

12 WHEREAS, a graduate of Boggs Academy, Mayor Gresham devoted 32 years to challenging
13 and inspiring the future leaders of this state as an educator in Augusta, teaching second grade
14 and mentally challenged students; and

15 WHEREAS, in the early 1980's, she became involved with Keysville Concerned Citizens,
16 a group seeking better living conditions for the community, and through her work with this
17 group, Mayor Gresham learned that Keysville had been registered as a town and
18 incorporated, yet had not had official leadership in 55 years; and

19 WHEREAS, determined to improve the lives of her neighbors through public service, Mayor
20 Gresham was elected mayor in 1985, but due to a loophole in the town's charter which
21 prevented an official election, Mayor Gresham served as mayor for only five hours; and

22 WHEREAS, after several years of community outreach, legal battles, and two Supreme
23 Court cases, Keysville held an election for mayor in 1988, and Mayor Gresham was again
24 recognized by the people as the most fitting person to lead; and

25 WHEREAS, located 25 miles south of Augusta in Burke County, Keysville is home to an
26 unofficial population of 319 and during Mayor Gresham's tenure has established a water
27 system, a waste-water treatment plant, city streetlights, and a health facility and earned the
28 title of a Certified Literate Community; and

29 WHEREAS, although her presence as mayor of Keysville will be sorely missed upon her
30 retirement after her 80th birthday, Mayor Gresham's influence will be present for future
31 generations of Keysville residents.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body commend the Honorable Emma Gresham for her outstanding,
34 efficient, and effective service to the people of Keysville and invite her to be recognized by
35 the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the
36 House of Representatives.

37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable Emma
40 Gresham.