

House Resolution 1998

By: Representatives Holt of the 112th and Smith of the 113th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Summer Stevens; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Summer Stevens has demonstrated a deep compassion for animals and her
3 initiative and determination in preventing equine abuse and neglect serve as an inspiration
4 to others; and
- 5 WHEREAS, a 12 year-old Morgan County 4-H'er, Summer took part in the 4-H's
6 Demonstration Project Achievement (DPA), which requires participants to give a
7 presentation to a large audience on a topic of their choice; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Summer chose to focus her DPA on the growing and often overlooked problem
9 of horse abuse and neglect, visiting the Georgia Department of Agriculture's equine impound
10 barn in Mansfield to see first hand what happens to abused and neglected horses that are
11 confiscated by the state; and
- 12 WHEREAS, as a result of her fantastic and compelling presentation, Summer earned a blue
13 ribbon at the DPA competition and inspired her fellow 4-H'ers to visit the Mansfield equine
14 impound barn themselves; and
- 15 WHEREAS, once the students observed what Summer had—severely dehydrated horses, a
16 mule that had been dragged behind a vehicle as a form of punishment from his owner, and
17 malnourished and starved horses that lacked muscle and fat—the students and local 4-H leader
18 took up the call to help by volunteering to hold an impound auction in Morgan County to
19 raise money and awareness; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Morgan County held a Georgia Department of Agriculture Equine Auction on
21 April 2, 2010, with hundreds in attendance to bid on horses rehabilitated at the facility and
22 to learn more about horse abuse and neglect; and

23 WHEREAS, with her mother's help, Summer has made several trips to the capitol to lobby
24 for legislation that will change current state law involving horse abuse and neglect by
25 requiring harsher penalties for people who mistreat horses; and

26 WHEREAS, Summer has been named a Great American HERO for her dedicated efforts on
27 behalf of animals, an honor that recognizes students who epitomize heroic qualities with a
28 feature in a national ad campaign and a \$500.00 prize which Summer plans to donate to the
29 Georgia Department of Agriculture's State Equine Impound Program; and

30 WHEREAS, as a result of Summer's initiative and passion, light has been shed on the
31 problem of horse abuse and neglect, providing a safer future for horses in Georgia.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize Summer Stevens for her selfless dedication to helping
34 abused and neglected horses, commend the example she has set that taking initiative at a
35 local level can help solve a problem, and applaud her for inspiring others to fight animal
36 abuse and neglect.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Summer Stevens.