

## House Resolution 2040

By: Representatives Carter of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Millar of the 79<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending J. Tom Morgan and inviting him to be recognized by the  
2 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, J. Tom Morgan is a nationally recognized expert on the prosecution of crimes  
4 against children and has appeared on CNN's *Talk Back Live*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, Court  
5 TV, *The Today Show*, and *48 Hours*; and

6 WHEREAS, he served as the District Attorney of DeKalb County, Georgia for 12 years and  
7 was the first prosecutor in Georgia to specialize in the prosecution of crimes against children,  
8 and is currently a trial lawyer in private practice in Decatur, Georgia specializing in criminal  
9 and civil litigation; and

10 WHEREAS, as District Attorney, J. Tom was the lead prosecutor in the case against former  
11 DeKalb County Sheriff Sidney Dorsey, who was convicted of corruption and murdering his  
12 opponent, Sheriff-elect Derwin Brown, and following this successful conviction, J. Tom was  
13 the first United States prosecutor to receive the Special Achievement Award from the  
14 International Association of Prosecutors; and

15 WHEREAS, he has dedicated his career to child advocacy and is committed to helping  
16 young people avoid being both victims and perpetrators of crimes, and has served on the  
17 United States Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect and chaired Georgia's Child  
18 Abuse Prevention Panel; and

19 WHEREAS, recognizing the need to treat victims of child abuse, J. Tom was a founding  
20 member and is currently vice chair of the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, Inc., which  
21 provides free counseling to children who are victims of child abuse; and

22 WHEREAS, J. Tom has spoken to tens of thousands of teenagers and parents regarding  
23 Georgia laws that impact young people and has listened to their stories, and with an engaging

24 presentation that generates open and frank discussion with his audience, J. Tom is in demand  
25 as a speaker at schools, colleges, churches, and other community groups; and

26 WHEREAS, the insights J. Tom has gained from speaking with teenagers, as well as his  
27 experience as a prosecutor and private attorney, inspired J. Tom to write *Ignorance is No*  
28 *Defense, A Teenager's Guide to Georgia Law*; and

29 WHEREAS, realizing that many teenagers often do not fully understand the law and its  
30 consequences, in *Ignorance is No Defense, A Teenager's Guide to Georgia Law*, J. Tom  
31 explains Georgia laws in a readable, informative way using real-life examples and aspires  
32 to help teenagers avoid situations in which they violate the law or are hurt by others who  
33 violate the law.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body join in recognizing and commending J. Tom Morgan.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that J. Tom Morgan is hereby invited to be recognized by  
37 the House of Representatives at a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker of the House for  
38 the purpose of receiving an appropriate copy of this resolution.