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House Resolution 879

By: Representatives Stephens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, Gordon of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Bryant of the 160<sup>th</sup>, Day of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Long of the 61<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Michael O'Neal; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. Michael O'Neal has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
- 3 the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
- 4 education of the students of Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, a 35-year resident of Savannah, Georgia, Mr. O'Neal is the founder of Parent
- 6 University and executive director of its management company, Community United Services,
- 7 Inc.; and
- 8 WHEREAS, established in 2000 in collaboration with Savannah-Chatham County Public
- 9 Schools, Parent University is a community based volunteer and nonprofit organization with
- 10 the goal of forming a bridge between the community and schools; and
- 11 WHEREAS, this faith based program has attracted over 4,000 participants from the
- 12 Savannah area and provides practical training for parents and encourages parental
- 13 involvement in their children's education; and
- 14 WHEREAS, a Leadership Savannah graduate, Mr. O'Neal managed a pilot program for the
- 15 City of Savannah called Strong Families Program that gave training to parents of youth who
- 16 were considered at risk by the schools or the courts; and
- 17 WHEREAS, a civic leader, Mr. O'Neal is active in several community councils and boards,
- 18 including the Economic Opportunity Authority Board, the Youth Futures Authority Board,
- 19 the United Way of the Coastal Empire Board, the Truancy Intervention Project Board, and
- 20 the American Cancer Society Leadership Board; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding
- 22 service, including a Friend of Education honoree award from the Phi Delta Kappa

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23 Association of Professional Educators, a Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King

- 24 Junior Observance Day Association, and a Georgia Outstanding Citizen Award from the
- 25 Georgia Secretary of State; and
- 26 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal is united in love and marriage to his wife, Jo-Nell, and they have
- been blessed with four remarkable children and four grandchildren; and
- 28 WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions to the students in this state, it is abundantly
- 29 fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary commitment and accomplishments
- 30 of this outstanding individual.
- 31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
- 32 the members of this body heartily and gratefully commend Mr. Michael O'Neal for his
- 33 sacrifice, foresight, accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia and
- 34 for the positive influence he has had upon the lives and futures of countless young people in
- 35 this state.
- 36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
- and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Michael O'Neal.