

House Resolution 1061

By: Representative Smith of the 113th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending *The Oconee Enterprise* for 125 years of public service; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, *The Oconee Enterprise* was established in 1884 by L. Shackelford, inspired by
3 his love of the written word, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his great desire to share with his
4 neighbors the uplifting and inspiring stories of the Oconee community; and

5 WHEREAS, despite the difficulties of finding advertising revenue in the rural town in the
6 paper's early days, *The Oconee Enterprise* has endured for 125 years and remains one of the
7 last surviving family owned weekly newspapers in the State of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1986, a majority interest in the newspaper was purchased by Vinnie
9 Williams, who was later joined by Maridee Williams, to form the mother-daughter
10 collaboration who have provided the community with quality journalism through print media
11 for over the last two decades; and

12 WHEREAS, published weekly on Thursdays, *The Oconee Enterprise* has a long-standing
13 tradition of providing heart lifting front page stories showcasing the superlative youth,
14 educators, artists, business owners, and positive events of the great Oconee County
15 community; and

16 WHEREAS, in addition to the amazing community interest pieces, *The Oconee Enterprise*
17 publishes a number of special sections, ranging from fall's high school football coverage to
18 spring's home and garden section, along with an annual "Oconee County Guide", and
19 sections celebrating FFA and 4-H Week; and

20 WHEREAS, over the years, *The Oconee Enterprise* has earned numerous awards and
21 accolades and proudly gives back to the local area through contributions to important causes
22 such as the Oconee Veterans Memorial Foundation; and

23 WHEREAS, unlike most newspapers, *The Oconee Enterprise* is unique in that it takes great
24 pride in providing engagement, wedding, and birth announcements free of charge, furthering
25 its reputation as a paper produced by the people of the community, for the people of the
26 community; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this community based, family owned
28 weekly newspaper be appropriately recognized for over 125 years of public service.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend *The Oconee Enterprise* for providing quality and
31 inspired articles through earnest and attentive journalism and extend their most sincere
32 congratulations on its 125th anniversary.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to *The Oconee Enterprise*.