

## House Resolution 134

By: Representatives Kendrick of the 94<sup>th</sup> and Jacobs of the 80<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Erik Lavere Downes; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most promising young citizens  
3 with the untimely passing of Mr. Erik Lavere Downes on January 4, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Downes was born in December of 1990, in Bridgetown, Barbados, and was  
5 the beloved son of Myrna Downes Lintner and Elvis Downes and stepson of Hans Lintner;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, at nine months of age, Mr. Downes relocated with his family to the United  
8 States and attended elementary school in Massachusetts; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2004, Mr. Downes moved to Ft. Myers, Florida, with his mother and  
10 stepfather and attended the Canterbury School, where he was a member of the track,  
11 basketball, and mock trial teams, was treasurer of the National Honor Society, and was a  
12 member of the Science National Honor Society; and

13 WHEREAS, enthusiastic about science, Mr. Downes won first place at school and regional  
14 science fairs and was selected to travel to Singapore for an international science competition  
15 in 2007; and

16 WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Erry Berry," Mr. Downes was baptized as a member  
17 of the Ft. Myers Shores Seventh-day Adventist Church on December 8, 2007; and

18 WHEREAS, upon high school graduation, Mr. Downes attended Oglethorpe University,  
19 where he was a pre-med major and served as vice president of the Student Government  
20 Association, led the Student Senate, and was a member of the honor council; and

21 WHEREAS, a junior at Oglethorpe, Mr. Downes worked as a resident assistant and  
22 volunteered with the university's Center for Civic Engagement's service projects; and

23 WHEREAS, on January 4, 2011, while on an ecotourism study abroad program with  
24 classmates from Oglethorpe, Mr. Downes lost his life after he was caught in rip current while  
25 swimming at a beach in Playa Dominical, Costa Rica; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Downes leaves behind many who will cherish his memory, including his  
27 parents; his grandparents, Colin Maynard and Vivian Smith; his aunts, Colleen Maynard  
28 Robinson, Rose Maynard, Lynn Jackson, Alina Maynard, Elmina Maynard, Florie Hollins,  
29 Gloria Morrison, Odessa Smith, and Phyllis Griffin; his uncles, George Maynard, Roland  
30 Maynard, Robert Robinson, and Herman Morrison; and many great-aunts, great-uncles,  
31 cousins, and close friends; and

32 WHEREAS, a kind and vivacious young man, Mr. Downes will long be remembered for his  
33 love of family and friendship, and this loyal son, grandson, nephew, student leader, and  
34 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Erik Laveré Downes  
37 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the family of Mr. Erik Laveré  
40 Downes and the president of Oglethorpe University.