

House Resolution 310

By: Representatives Black of the 174th, Carter of the 175th, and Shaw of the 176th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and celebrating the 100th birthday of Mr. Elmer Robert Byrd; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Elmer Robert Byrd was born in New Brockton, Alabama, on March 5,
4 1911, and graduated from the Alabama School of Trades in Gadsden, Alabama, the first state
5 operated trade school in the southern United States; and

6 WHEREAS, this welder by trade and mason by choice, affectionately known as "Papa Byrd,"
7 worked for the naval shipyard in Charleston, South Carolina, during World War II, prior to
8 working for National Container in Jacksonville, Florida, and later for Owens Illinois in
9 Clyattville, Georgia, before retiring in 1976; and

10 WHEREAS, he has traveled the lower 48 states and Alaska, even driving round-trip to
11 Branson, Missouri; but no adventure can compare to the times he has had with his loving
12 wife, Emma Lee Nichols, whom he married in 1940 and had the best times of his life with,
13 along with their three sons, Robert, James, and Jerry, until her passing 65 years later; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Byrd was a deacon for many years at the Lee Street Baptist Church in
15 Valdosta, Georgia, and this faithful believer is presently an active church member as well as
16 a member of the Scrap Iron Sunday School Class; and

17 WHEREAS, always walking with Christ, Mr. and Mrs. Byrd helped to found and organize
18 the Francis Lake Baptist Church in nearby Lake Park, Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, until the age of 98, Mr. Byrd was an avid fisherman, cooking fish for his many
20 friends and neighbors who could neither fish nor cook and entertaining his guests with
21 endless stories and jokes; and

22 WHEREAS, this centenarian credits his longevity to his deep abiding faith in God and his
23 giant sense of humor; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Byrd is a distinguished gentleman who has given inspiration to many
25 through his ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and he possesses the vast
26 wisdom which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is
27 achieved through overcoming the many challenges of life and smiling through it all; and it
28 is only fitting and proper that he be appropriately recognized during this very special and
29 remarkable day in his life.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 Mr. Elmer Robert Byrd is hereby congratulated on the wonderful occasion of his 100th
32 birthday and commended for his 100 years of caring devotion to his family and fellow
33 citizens.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Elmer Robert Byrd.