

House Resolution 401

By: Representative Watson of the 163rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Billy Joe "Bill" Saunders; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Mr. Billy Joe "Bill" Saunders on February 8, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Saunders was born on July 17, 1925, in Murray, Kentucky, and was a
5 long-time resident of Savannah, Georgia; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World
8 War II; and
- 9 WHEREAS, an educator and coach for over 37 years, Mr. Saunders brought Country Day
10 athletics to prominence, the school he devoted 31 years to; and
- 11 WHEREAS, his football record of 171-67-7 included the 1969 Class B Georgia High School
12 Association state championship, the last GHSA state football title won by a Savannah team;
13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, Mr. Saunders coached the state runners-up in 1970, seven region championship
15 football teams, and four area champions, and seven of his football teams had undefeated
16 seasons; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was one of the first coaches to stress academics first, requiring his players
18 to make the school's highest grades, a rule that Country Day athletes must abide by today;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Saunders brought out the superior athletic ability of his players, served as
21 a role model and mentor to his teams, and expected respect and discipline from each of his
22 players; and

23 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage for 58 wonderful years to Charlene Orr
24 Saunders and was blessed with the support of his children, Cindy Saunders and Franklin
25 Kemp, Shan Saunders, Chris and Elizabeth Saunders, and Russell and Kathy Saunders; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Saunders was the proud grandfather of Courtney Kemp, Christopher
27 Saunders, David Saunders, Kelsey Kemp, Jameson Saunders, Bryce Saunders, and Kathryn
28 Saunders; and

29 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
30 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
31 made this world a better place in which to live; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Saunders will long be remembered for
33 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, coach, 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. Billy Joe "Bill"
37 Saunders 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 an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Billy Joe
40 "Bill" Saunders.