

House Resolution 443

By: Representatives Stephens of the 161st, Gordon of the 162nd, Williams of the 165th, and Bryant of the 160th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the history of St. Pius X High School; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Blessed Pius X High School opened in 1952, giving black youth the opportunity
3 to obtain a private high school education in Chatham County for the first time; and
- 4 WHEREAS, regarded as one of the most modern schools of its type in Chatham County at
5 its opening, Blessed Pius X was designed by Carl E. Helfrich, standing at the corner of
6 Anderson Street and Atlantic Avenue; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the canonization of Pius X in 1954 led to the school's name changing to St. Pius
8 X High School; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in 1955, a 9,000 square foot gymnasium/auditorium was dedicated, made
10 possible by the generosity of numerous parishioners who donated their time and talents as
11 bricklayers, carpenters, and other building trades; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the second wing of the school was opened in 1962 and included a larger
13 cafeteria, additional classrooms, restrooms, and office space; and
- 14 WHEREAS, St. Pius X High School has had numerous notable alumni, including Savannah's
15 first black mayor, Floyd Adams, and this nation's second black United States Supreme Court
16 Justice, Clarence Thomas; and
- 17 WHEREAS, in 1969, the school was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and
18 Schools, but that same year, the Catholic Diocese of Savannah announced plans to
19 amalgamate St. Pius X with Savannah's other Catholic high schools, St. Vincent's Academy
20 and Benedictine Military School; and

21 WHEREAS, since the school's closing in 1971, the building has been used by a variety of
22 social services, including PAX, Inc., the Economic Opportunity Authority, the Chatham
23 Association of Retarded Citizens, Model Cities, the Police Community Relations Division
24 of the Savannah Police Department, and Greenbriar Children's Center; and

25 WHEREAS, the rich history and tradition of St. Pius X High School is worthy of recognition
26 by this body.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize the amazing history of St. Pius X High School and
29 commend its numerous successful alumni for their contributions to their community and this
30 state.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the President of the St. Pius
33 X Alumni Association, Ormonde E. Lewis.