

House Resolution 464

By: Representatives Henson of the 87th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Jacobs of the 80th, Ashe of the 56th, Brooks of the 63rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing September, 2011, as Jewish Heritage Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, 42 Jewish men and women were among the first to arrive in Georgia with James
3 Edward Oglethorpe on the *William and Sarah*; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the third-oldest Jewish congregation in the United States, Congregation Mickve
5 Israel, is located in Savannah, Georgia, and was established by Benjamin Sheftall and his
6 sons in 1735; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Benjamin Sheftall was one of the founders of the Union Society, the oldest
8 charitable society in Georgia, and his son was the first young man to have a bar mitzvah in
9 the United States; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has many notable historic figures of the Jewish faith,
11 including Governor David Emanuel, Atlanta public schools organizer David Mayer, Atlanta's
12 first Jewish mayor Sam Massell, and Rich's Department Store's founder Morris Rich; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum was opened in 1996 in Atlanta
14 and serves as an archive and cultural center dedicated to the experience of Jews in Georgia;
15 and
- 16 WHEREAS, in 2000, there were 52 Jewish congregations in Georgia with approximately
17 93,500 adherents; and
- 18 WHEREAS, there is one congregation in Albany, one congregation in Athens, 34
19 congregations in Atlanta, three congregations in Augusta, and three congregations in
20 Savannah; and

21 WHEREAS, it is important for all Georgians to acknowledge the rich tradition and history
22 of the Jewish faith and recognize the numerous contributions Jews have made in this state.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body recognize September, 2011, as Jewish Heritage Month.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
26 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to members of the public and
27 the press.