

House Resolution 685

By: Representatives Rogers of the 26th and Ralston of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mrs. Celestia "Lessie" Bailey Smithgall on her 100th birthday; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Celestia "Lessie" Bailey Smithgall was born on April 1, 1911, in Atlanta,
4 Georgia, and this year she enjoys the rare distinction of celebrating her 100th birthday; and

5 WHEREAS, a graduate of Girls' High School, Mrs. Smithgall earned a bachelor's degree
6 from the University of Georgia, where she was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority
7 and earned Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honors; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smithgall had a distinguished career in journalism working with WGST
9 and WSB radio; serving as a feature writer for *Atlanta Journal* magazine; working as a
10 columnist for *The Daily Times of Gainesville*, the newspaper she and her husband Charlie
11 founded; assisting in the founding of Peabody Awards for Excellence in Journalism; and
12 developing radio stations, newspapers, cable television, and other businesses alongside her
13 husband; and

14 WHEREAS, a leader of her community, Mrs. Smithgall has been active with the American
15 League of Pen Women, Georgia Council for the Arts, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra,
16 Woodruff Arts Alliance, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Floramor Garden Club, Gainesville-Hall
17 Junior League, Georgia Citizens for the Arts, and Gainesville Arts Council; and

18 WHEREAS, a Fockele Fellow, Mrs. Smithgall has served as a Cub Scout leader, a trustee
19 for Brenau University, a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church, and is the founder
20 of Theatre Wings; and

21 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smithgall has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades
22 during her life, including a Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction award; a Global Conservation
23 Award from the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International; an Ivan Allen, Jr., Prize for Progress

24 and Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology; Philanthropist of the Year Award
25 from the North Georgia Community Foundation; a Georgia Arts & Entertainment Legacy
26 Award, and Gainesville Rotary Club's Woman of the Year; and

27 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smithgall's legacy will be preserved and enjoyed for future generations
28 with her and her husband's donation of 167 acres to Atlanta Botanical Gardens for the
29 Smithgall Woodland Garden, the preservation of 5,000 acres in White County known as
30 Smithgall Woods, the creation of the Smithgall Arts Depot Complex, and numerous
31 anonymous contributions to society and towards the betterment of mankind; and

32 WHEREAS, by the example Mrs. Smithgall has made of her life, she makes this world a
33 better place in which to live, and it is only fitting and proper that she be appropriately
34 recognized during this very special and memorable time of her life.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body commend Mrs. Celestia "Lessie" Bailey Smithgall for her
37 numerous contributions to her community and this state and extend to her best wishes on the
38 grand occasion of her 100th birthday.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Celestia "Lessie"
41 Bailey Smithgall.