

House Resolution 341 (AM)

By: Representatives Henson of the 87th, Benfield of the 85th, Williams of the 89th, Mosby of the 90th, Oliver of the 83rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging efforts to promote an increase in public awareness of the dangers of celebratory
2 gunfire; urging state and local governments and law enforcement agencies to better educate
3 Georgians regarding the serious threat created by firing a weapon into the air during a
4 celebration; and committing to studying and adopting tougher criminal sanctions for those
5 who perform celebratory gunfire resulting in injury or death to another person; and for other
6 purposes.

7 WHEREAS, each year in this country there are hundreds of thousands of calls to police
8 emergency numbers complaining of celebratory gunfire; and

9 WHEREAS, during 2009 and 2010, one metro Atlanta county reported over 5,000 calls of
10 people discharging firearms on July 4 and December 31; and

11 WHEREAS, the random discharge of any firearm in populated residential areas presents an
12 inherent danger of injury or death to nearby citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, four year old Marquel Peters, who was killed by a stray bullet while sitting in
14 church on New Year's Day, is a tragic example of the inherent danger of celebratory gunfire;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, current laws do not sufficiently address or deter this tremendous threat to public
17 safety, resulting in numerous incidents of injury, damage to property, and loss of innocent
18 life; and

19 WHEREAS, now is the time for Georgia's leaders to come together and to work together to
20 help prevent the senseless loss like the loss of beautiful little Marquel Peters.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
22 this body urges both governmental and private entities to promote an increased public

23 awareness of the dangers of celebratory gunfire and further urges state and local governments
24 and law enforcement agencies to better educate Georgians regarding the serious threat
25 created by firing a weapon into the air during a celebration.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in honor of Marquel Peters, this body is committed to
27 studying and adopting tougher criminal sanctions for those who commit celebratory gunfire
28 which results in injury or death to another person.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the DeKalb County Board of
31 Commissioners and the mother of Marquel Peters.