

House Resolution 700

By: Representative Smith of the 168th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life, memory, and legacy of Mr. Zene William Kirkland; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Zene William Kirkland was born on December 20, 1861, to Harrison and
4 Elizabeth Gaskins Kirkland; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland's father was killed in the War Between the States under the
6 command of Robert E. Lee; and

7 WHEREAS, although he had little formal education, through sheer determination and
8 self-study, Mr. Kirkland became a well educated and successful businessman; and

9 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Kirkland was a longstanding member and
10 supporter of Union Springs Baptist Church, where he donated land and served as church
11 treasurer; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland was united in love and marriage to Anne Judson Hinson, and they
13 were the proud parents of five beloved children, Bessie, Harrison, Emma, Edelle, and Dan,
14 Sr., who became productive members of their community and were well known and
15 respected; and

16 WHEREAS, he was the co-owner and president of the Bank of Hazlehurst, which he
17 purchased from the brink of bankruptcy during the Great Depression and provided local
18 citizens with a much needed banking institution; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland was a lifelong naval stores operator and owned a wholesale
20 grocery company; and

21 WHEREAS, he stood for racial equality as evidenced by selling 40 acres of land to Mr. W.
22 Turner Watkins in Jeff Davis County, Georgia, in 1937; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkland served the State of Georgia as a State Senator, representing Jeff
24 Davis, Appling, and Wayne Counties, before his death at the age of 81 in 1942; and

25 WHEREAS, he left behind a large adoring family, and his great-grandson Dale Kirkland was
26 diligent in researching Mr. Kirkland's life and providing this information; and

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Kirkland will long be remembered for
28 his love of family and friendship, and as a loyal father, grandfather, state leader, and friend.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Mr. Zene William Kirkland and
31 express their utmost appreciation for his dedicated service to his church, his family, and Jeff
32 Davis County.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Zene
35 William Kirkland.