

House Resolution 1064

By: Representative Hatfield of the 177th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Thomas Eugene "Tommy" Gray, Sr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Mr. Thomas Eugene "Tommy" Gray, Sr., on September 24, 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Gray was born on January 26, 1934, in Ware County, Georgia, a beloved
6 son of Marvin and Phanita James Gray; and

7 WHEREAS, he graduated from Wacona School, where he was a football star, and earned an
8 associate's degree from Waycross-Ware County Technical College; and

9 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
10 States Army and dedicated 44 years to CSX Railroad as a machinist; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Gray served as chairman of the Ware County Commission for two terms;
12 owned a successful business, Ware-Waycross Services; and was acting commander of the
13 Sons of the Confederacy Clement A. Evans Camp 64; and

14 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Gray was an active member of Jamestown
15 United Methodist Church, where he served on the trustee committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Gray was a prominent farmer and was well known for his pecans, tobacco,
17 and the best silver queen corn in Ware County; and

18 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to the late Rita Carswell Gray, and was
19 blessed with the love and support of his children, Keena Gray and Jerry Milligan, Maurice
20 Gray Barber, and Thomas Eugene Gray, Jr.; and

21 WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Gray leaves behind many who will cherish his memory,
22 including his wife, Joann Wood Gray; stepdaughter, Melody Wood; and grandchildren,
23 Lauren Milligan, Jenna Milligan, Jennifer Barber, Jessica Gray, Kelsey Gray, and Vernon
24 Barber III; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Gray competed in rodeos, riding bulls and bucking horses, and was an avid
26 race car fan who was instrumental in the building of the Waycross Motor Speedway; and

27 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
28 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
29 family and friends were admired by others; and

30 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
31 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
32 made this world a better place in which to live; and

33 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Gray will long be remembered for his
34 love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend
35 will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Thomas Eugene
38 "Tommy" Gray, Sr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

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 the family of Mr. Thomas
41 Eugene "Tommy" Gray, Sr.