

House Resolution 1154

By: Representatives Peake of the 137th, Randall of the 138th, Dickey of the 136th, Beverly of the 139th, Holmes of the 125th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Wesleyan College; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College was chartered on December 23, 1836, as the first college in
3 the world to grant degrees to women, 84 years before women in America were allowed to
4 vote; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College was founded through the effects of a group of Macon citizens
6 and the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as evidence of their concern
7 for the education of women; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College has always been a women's college and has remained in
9 continuous existence even through wartime; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the first secret societies for women, Adelphean Society (Alpha Delta Pi) in
11 1851 and Philomathean Society (Phi Mu) in 1852, were founded at Wesleyan College; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the world's first Alumnae Association was founded at Wesleyan College on July
13 11, 1859; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College established America's first professorship in English literature
15 in 1844, held by the Reverend Josiah Fletcher Andrew; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College held the first formal inauguration of a college president in
17 Georgia, Dr. Dice Robins Anderson in 1932; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the first woman in Georgia to receive the Doctor of Medicine degree was Mary
19 McKay, Class of 1878; and

20 WHEREAS, the first woman to argue a case before the Georgia Court of Appeals or the
21 Georgia Supreme Court and the first woman to hold an elective office in the State of Georgia
22 was Viola Ross Napier, Class of 1901; and

23 WHEREAS, the first woman in Georgia to be issued a commercial pilot's license was Hazel
24 Jane Raines, Class of 1936; and

25 WHEREAS, the first woman chair of the Press Institute of the Georgia Press Association was
26 Adelaide Wallace Ponder, Class of 1946; and

27 WHEREAS, the first Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for
28 Campus-Community Collaboration was awarded to Wesleyan College in November 2000
29 for "Aunt Maggie's Kitchen Table" resource center; and

30 WHEREAS, Neva Langley Fickling, Georgia's first and only Miss America (1953), is a
31 Wesleyanne, Class of 1955; and

32 WHEREAS, the first woman to be ordained Bishop of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the
33 Unites States Methodist Conference (1996) was Charlene Payne Kammerer, Class of 1970;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, the first woman president of the Florida Senate (1996) and first woman Lt.
36 Governor of the State of Florida (2003) was Antoinette "Toni" Jennings, Class of 1971; and

37 WHEREAS, Janice A. Mays, Class of 1973, was the first woman staff director for the U.S.
38 House Ways and Means Committee and the first woman to serve in the roles of Democratic
39 Chief Counsel and Chief Tax Counsel; and

40 WHEREAS, in 1976 the Rotary Club of Macon, in conjunction with Wesleyan College,
41 initiated the first Rotary International Intern Program; and

42 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College's newly renovated Taylor Hall is the college's first
43 LEED-certified green building and the first LEED-certified project in Macon, Georgia; and

44 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College is recognized today as one of the nation's finest liberal arts
45 colleges and is consistently recognized for academic excellence, affordability, diversity,

46 service learning, and community leadership, as well as its unique international student
47 population; and

48 WHEREAS, 90 percent of Wesleyan's full-time faculty members hold the terminal degree
49 in their respective disciplinary areas; and

50 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College is not only celebrating its 175th year of educating women,
51 but is also preparing to educate women for the next 175 years and beyond.

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
53 the members of this body recognize Wesleyan College not only for its prestigious legacy of
54 advancing women, but also its commitment to remain first for women, and commend the
55 college for realizing its mission to be a pioneer for women's education with thousands of
56 alumnae having served their communities, churches, and professions, and anchored in
57 tradition and guided by an innovative spirit, for preparing a new generation of leaders who
58 will ensure a strong and vibrant future for the State of Georgia.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
60 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Wesleyan College.