

House Resolution 1453

By: Representative Yates of the 73rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Gerald "Jerry" Michael Shaw; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the loss of Gerald "Jerry" Michael Shaw on August 21, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Jerry was born on October 29, 1952, a beloved son to the late James C. Shaw,
5 Jr., and Geraldine Carter Shaw at the Griffin-Spalding County Hospital; and
- 6 WHEREAS, before his birth, his father was drafted into the Korean War and was raised on
7 North Hill Street in Griffin, Georgia, by his grandparents, James C. Shaw, Sr., and Gussie
8 Lee Powell Shaw, after his parents divorced; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Jerry followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather by getting into the
10 construction business; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Jerry was united in love and marriage to Sherry Foskey on May 10, 1974, after
12 meeting at Vineyard Baptist Church in Griffin during a revival he attended, and their 37 year
13 union was blessed with four children, Sherry Alicia, Elizabeth Leeann, Tammy Michelle,
14 Clinton Roland; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Sherry's father, Reverend George Foskey, was a pastor at Vineyard Baptist
16 Church and performed their wedding ceremony; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Jerry and Sherry began their marriage in a rented house on Vineyard Road
18 where their three daughters were born, and he worked 16 hours a day, six days a week to
19 provide for his family so that Sherry could stay home to raise their children; and

20 WHEREAS, borrowing only \$9,000.00, Jerry and Sherry purchased property in Sunnyside,
21 Georgia, where they began to build a house, working on it for three years before it was
22 finished and having it paid off in five years; and

23 WHEREAS, his first child, Sherry Alicia, was born October 5, 1976, and graduated with
24 honors from Griffin High School, Gordon College, and Macon State University where she
25 received her degree in respiratory therapy; she works full time at Spalding Regional Medical
26 Center and part time at David's Drug and Surgical Shop, serving as the director of their home
27 care program as a respiratory therapist; and

28 WHEREAS, Sherry Alicia resides in Spalding County and has been blessed two children,
29 Lyla and Layton Lennan; and

30 WHEREAS, Jerry's second child, Elizabeth Leeann, was born January 17, 1979, and
31 graduated with honors from Griffin High School, Gordon College, and the Medical College
32 of Georgia with a degree in occupational therapy; and she practices full-time occupational
33 therapy at Spalding Regional Medical Center in Griffin, Georgia; and

34 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Leeann resides in Concord, Georgia, with her husband and two sons,
35 Cooper and Jackson Terry; and

36 WHEREAS, Jerry's third child, Tammy Michelle, was born February 9, 1981, and graduated
37 with honors from Griffin High School and received a full four-year scholarship to Clayton
38 State College, then attended Georgia State University and the Medical College of Georgia
39 where she graduated with honors as a licensed physician assistant, currently practicing with
40 the Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery Associates as a surgical physician assistant in
41 Macon, Georgia; and

42 WHEREAS, Tammy Michelle resides in Forsyth with her husband and son, Nathan; and

43 WHEREAS, his fourth child, Clinton Roland, was born April 12, 1988, and graduated from
44 Spalding High School and was involved in an apprenticeship program as an automotive
45 technician, which he pursues to this day; and

46 WHEREAS, Clinton resides in Sunnyside with his wife and son, Randon Roland, and plans
47 to attend Southern Crescent Technical College to pursue his lifelong dream of a degree as
48 a firefighter and emergency medical technician; and

49 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Jerry and his entire family joined Pomona
50 United Methodist Church in April of 1990, where Jerry was the song leader and served on
51 the board of trustees and worship committee and Sherry was the pianist and organist for
52 many years; and

53 WHEREAS, Jerry was the owner of Shaw Construction Company for almost 40 years, where
54 his expertise is shown by the many homes and buildings that he constructed and remodeled
55 around Spalding County and the surrounding counties, and owned J & S Feeds for seven
56 years; and

57 WHEREAS, his love for beagles and hunting were expressed by his membership in the
58 Tussahaw Beagle Club and the American Rabbit Hound Association; and

59 WHEREAS, Jerry was a compassionate and generous man and Sherry's best friend, advisor,
60 and confidant, a man who will always be remembered for his love of family and friendship;
61 and this loyal son, husband, father, grandfather, and friend will be missed by all who had the
62 great fortune of knowing him.

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
64 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Gerald "Jerry" Michael
65 Shaw and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
67 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Gerald "Jerry"
68 Michael Shaw.