

House Resolution 1524

By: Representatives Peake of the 137th, Dickey of the 136th, Randall of the 138th, Beverly of the 139th, Epps of the 140th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Wesleyan College and inviting President Ruth Knox to be recognized by the
- 2 House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College was chartered on December 23, 1836, as the first college in
- 4 the world to grant degrees to women, 84 years before women in America were allowed to
- 5 vote; and

- 6 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College was founded through the efforts of a group of Macon citizens
- 7 and the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as evidence of their concern
- 8 for the education of women; and

- 9 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College has always been a women's college and has remained in
- 10 continuous existence even through wartime; and

- 11 WHEREAS, the first secret societies for women, the Adelphean Society (Alpha Delta Pi) in
- 12 1851 and Philomathean Society (Phi Mu) in 1852, were founded at Wesleyan College; and

- 13 WHEREAS, the world's first Alumnae Association was founded at Wesleyan College on July
- 14 11, 1859; and

- 15 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College established America's first professorship in English literature
- 16 in 1844, held by the Reverend Josiah Fletcher Andrew; and

- 17 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College held the first formal inauguration of a college president in
- 18 Georgia, Dr. Dice Robins Anderson in 1932; and

- 19 WHEREAS, the first woman in Georgia to receive the Doctor of Medicine degree was Mary
- 20 McKay, Class of 1878; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 service learning, and community leadership, as well as its unique international student
49 population; and

50 WHEREAS, 90 percent of Wesleyan's full-time faculty members hold the terminal degree
51 in their respective disciplines; and

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

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

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