

House Resolution 2070

By: Representative Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Thomas E. Bryant; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Dr. Thomas E. Bryant; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,  
5 talents, and energy toward the betterment of this state and nation as evidenced dramatically  
6 by his superlative service with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant was born on January 17, 1936, in Demopolis, Alabama, and earned  
8 a bachelor's degree in 1958, a medical degree in 1962, and a law degree in 1967 from Emory  
9 University; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
11 States Air Force as a flight surgeon in Germany; and
- 12 WHEREAS, while working on the federal War on Poverty program in the late 1960s, Dr.  
13 Bryant saw the poor quality of health care in underprivileged communities; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he was a trusted advisor of First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and after President  
15 Jimmy Carter established the Commission on Mental Health in 1977, Dr. Bryant became the  
16 executive and chairman; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was described as a consensus-builder who knew how to use his political  
18 connections to advance the commission's agenda as proven with the passage of the Mental  
19 Health Systems Act of 1980; and

20 WHEREAS, he worked on mental health issues with the Carter Center's Mental Health Task  
21 Force and the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving and served as president of the  
22 National Foundation for Mental Health based in Washington; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant's significant organizational and leadership talents, his keen sense of  
24 vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this state and nation earned him the  
25 respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

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

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Bryant will long be remembered for his dedication and passion and will be  
30 missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Thomas E. Bryant and  
33 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Rosalynn Carter Institute  
36 for Caregiving.