

House Resolution 49EX

By: Representatives Howard of the 121st, Frazier of the 123rd, Murphy of the 120th, Smith of the 122nd, and Stephens of the 161st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Norman Bonner upon the naming of the Norman Bonner Athletic Complex; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Norman Bonner was born in Augusta, Georgia, on February 9, 1944; he was
4 the last of four children born to the late Willie and Dennie Bonner; and

5 WHEREAS, his early education was in the Richmond County School System where he
6 attended Silas X. Floyd Elementary School and A.R. Johnson Junior High School; and

7 WHEREAS, Norman went on to attend Lucy C. Laney High School where he excelled as a
8 student athlete; he lettered in three sports, football, basketball, and baseball; and

9 WHEREAS, he graduated in the well-known class of 1962 where he was voted most popular
10 male and vice president of the class; and

11 WHEREAS, in his senior year he received the John M. Tutt award as the best-all-around
12 athlete for the school year 1961-62. In that same year, he played on Laney's first football
13 championship team, setting a season interception record that still stands today. He also was
14 the leading scorer on the basketball team and received the Most Valuable Player Award.
15 Because of his basketball play, he was selected to play in Atlanta at the state All-Star Game
16 where he was the leading scorer. In baseball, he played shortstop, batted cleanup, and helped
17 the Wildcats to a second place finish in the state baseball tournament; and

18 WHEREAS, his basketball talents attracted the attention of the basketball coach at Hampton
19 Institute (now Hampton University) in Hampton, Virginia. He entered Hampton in the fall
20 of 1962 after being given a grant in aid to play basketball for four years. He finished
21 Hampton in 1966 as a four-year starter. During that time he led the team in scoring during
22 his sophomore, junior, and senior years. His average of 19.5 points per game in 1964-65

23 placed him 9th in the league (CIAA) in scoring. He was also captain of the team during his
24 junior and senior years; and

25 WHEREAS, upon graduating in 1966 he returned to Laney as a teacher and coach. As an
26 educator at Laney he taught health, biology, and physical science, as well as his beloved
27 physical education. He also served as chairman of his department and many years as the
28 school's athletic director. To enhance his educational development he earned a master's
29 degree and an education specialist degree in secondary education; and

30 WHEREAS, Coach Bonner has coached football (on Coach Dupree's staff when he won his
31 second state football championship), basketball, softball, cross country, and tennis.
32 Beginning in the fall of 1966 he has been the head coach of the varsity boys basketball team
33 at Laney. In addition to receiving several coaching awards, he has a won-lost record of 520
34 wins and 360 losses; and

35 WHEREAS, Coach Bonner has been married to his high school sweetheart, Brenda E.
36 Jennings, for 43 years. They have one son, Norman Bray; one daughter, Bridget Nicole; a
37 daughter-in-law, Jane Benjamin; and one granddaughter, Taylor Brianna; and

38 WHEREAS, in the spring of 2005, Coach Bonner retired as basketball coach at Laney High
39 School and as an employee of the Richmond County Board of Education. As a student and
40 as a teacher, he spent 42 years in direct contact with the Laney Experience; and

41 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that Norman Bonner be commended upon the
42 naming of the Norman Bonner Athletic Complex in his honor.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body honor the outstanding athletic, teaching, and coaching career of
45 Norman Bonner and wish him good health and success in all of his future ventures.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Norman Bonner.