

House Resolution 87EX

By: Representatives Frazier of the 123rd, Brooks of the 63rd, Murphy of the 120th, Holt of the 112th, Williams of the 89th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Mr. Tom Franklin; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. Tom Franklin is a cherished citizen of this state and has enriched the
3 quality of life for others throughout the State of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin was born on March 15, 1919, in Putnam County, Eatonton,
5 Georgia, an only child to single parent Mamie Franklin Tate; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he married his beloved wife, Bernice Mathis Franklin, who passed away at the
7 age of 42, leaving him to raise their six children and a granddaughter; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin is the oldest family member within his family tree and the oldest
9 living member of the Springfield Church community in Madison, Georgia, where he serves
10 as an adoptive parent to several Springfield members and is considered a pillar of the
11 community; and
- 12 WHEREAS, throughout his life, he has been a prime example of the innate wisdom and
13 strength that has made his generation the greatest generation; and
- 14 WHEREAS, though he only attended school through the second grade, Mr. Franklin says he
15 holds a degree from the University of Life, God's College, and believes God has made him
16 a vessel to assist others; and
- 17 WHEREAS, at the age of 8, he knew he wanted to help others and asked God for guidance;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, at the age of 12, his extraordinary journey started when he began working as
20 a water boy for farm workers, soon afterward becoming the foreman for one of the wealthiest
21 families in Morgan County, Madison, Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, beginning in his twenties and throughout 25 years, he came to transport migrant
23 farm workers from Georgia to the south of Florida to New Jersey and many points in
24 between, and is known for making it possible for black people to become gainfully
25 employed, enabling many families to escape the poverty and racism of the Jim Crow era and
26 save for homes, education, and a better life; and

27 WHEREAS, at the age of 21, he was the owner of a 100 acre farm; at the age of 65, he
28 retired from the Morgan County Public School System as a bus driver; around the age of 75,
29 he stepped down as the owner and CEO of Club 411, a critical part of Madison's cultural
30 scene; and even now, at the age of 92, he still oversees the facility, which is still an important
31 part of the community, and coordinates all repairs while planting and harvesting two gardens;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Franklin looks decades younger than his age, due in large part to being a
34 firm believer in eating right, taking herbs, and working hard, beginning each day at 5:00
35 a.m.; and

36 WHEREAS, he is a true treasure as the patriarch of his family, a loyal friend and neighbor,
37 and a proud citizen of Georgia.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body commend Mr. Tom Franklin for his extraordinary life and ever
40 positive outlook.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Tom Franklin.