

## House Resolution 39

By: Representative Brooks of the 55<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mary Gaither McLurkin; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on June 20, 2012, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest and most  
3 distinguished former citizens with the passing of Mary Gaither McLurkin; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mary Gaither McLurkin was born in Oxford, Georgia, on December 7, 1923,  
5 to the late Mr. Will Cole Gaither and Ms. Americus Lackey; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Mrs. McLurkin had five siblings, Jesse Cole, Elizabeth Cole-Riley, Katherine  
7 Gaither, Henry (Doc) Gaither, and William Gardner, which, as a result of being from a large  
8 and caring family, led her to becoming a licensed nurse practitioner; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Mrs. McLurkin worked as a nurse for many years and then began a fruitful  
10 career with Guardian Automotives where she later retired; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in addition to her career, she was a dear wife and mother, having married  
12 Samuel L. McLurkin, Jr., in 1966 and with whom she provided a loving home to Marianne  
13 Gaither Garrett, Samuel Gregory McLurkin, and Kimberly McLurkin Harris; and
- 14 WHEREAS, both Samuel L. McLurkin, Jr., and Samuel Gregory McLurkin preceded her in  
15 death, and Samuel Gregory McLurkin is survived by his wife, Yvonne, and his daughter,  
16 Tymesha; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Mrs. McLurkin was very active in her community as well as in her church,  
18 being a member of Mt. Zion 1st Baptist Church and Rust Chapel United Methodist Church  
19 in Oxford, both of which she loved and of which she was a dedicated member; and
- 20 WHEREAS, she worked on several boards, including the mother board, the usher board, and  
21 the choir, and was often called upon to make speeches and presentations; and

22 WHEREAS, she received many awards during her lifetime from her city, the State of  
23 Georgia, and other organizations, received the titles of Past Matron of Arena Chapter No. 29,  
24 O.E.S.; Past Loyal Lady Ruler of Esther R. Walters No. 24 A., Order of the Golden Circle,  
25 Past Ill. Commandress, Nabbar Court No. 123; charter member of Ruth Court No. 11,  
26 Heroine of Jericho; charter member of Atlanta Shining C's; past member of Atlanta Masonic  
27 District No. 3 West; was appointed to the Nursing Staff for Imperial Court, D.O.I.; and  
28 received Community Service Awards from the Congressional Black Caucus; and

29 WHEREAS, she leaves to cherish her memory two daughters: Marianne Gaither Garrett and  
30 Mr. and Mrs. David (Kimberly McLurkin) Harris, Sr.; six grandchildren: Mr. and Mrs.  
31 Ricardo (Gretchen) Zaldana, Melody Garrett, Monica Garrett, Tymesha McLurkin, David  
32 Harris, Jr., and Elana Harris; great-grandchildren; a brother, (Doc) Henry Gaither; niece,  
33 Cynthia Nicholas; nephew, Humphrey Cole; last 1st cousins, Robert Lackey and Madge  
34 Osborne; devoted friend and in-law, Elizabeth Starks (Bae); and a host of other relatives and  
35 friends; and

36 WHEREAS, she was an honest and dedicated citizen who strived for excellence in all her  
37 endeavors and was recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role that she played  
38 in her commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

39 WHEREAS, her significant talents, her remarkable courage, her keen sense of vision, and  
40 her sensitivity to the needs of the people of this state earned her the respect and admiration  
41 of her colleagues and associates; and

42 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
43 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, kindness, loyalty, and enthusiasm which distinguished her  
44 superlative service to this state; and

45 WHEREAS, the passing of this distinguished Georgian leaves an unfillable void in the hearts  
46 and lives of her family and friends.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
48 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Mary Gaither  
49 McLurkin and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
51 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Mary  
52 Gaither McLurkin.