

House Resolution 136

By: Representatives Carter of the 175th, Black of the 174th, Shaw of the 176th, and Sharper of the 177th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Student Mentoring in Life and Education (SMILE) program and its founder,
2 Coach John Miller; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the four years since its 2004 inception, the Student Mentoring in Life and
4 Education (SMILE) program at Valdosta High School has transformed 29 bright but
5 disadvantaged kids into college students; and

6 WHEREAS, the program was founded by retired VHS math teacher and coach John Miller,
7 beloved son of Oxford alumnus John M. Miller; and

8 WHEREAS, through his efforts and support from his cousins and Oxford alumni Willis
9 Miller and Dutton Miller, Coach Miller helps promising students overcome difficult
10 situations, pushing them to improve SAT scores and toiling with them on college and
11 scholarship applications; and

12 WHEREAS, the nonprofit program encourages high school students to grow academically,
13 ethically, and socially and continues to mentor them through college; and

14 WHEREAS, since 2004, when one student received the first SMILE scholarship for
15 \$3,000.00, SMILE has produced three Gates Millennium scholars, and the program has
16 grown so that in 2009 the combined scholarship awards of VHS SMILE students stood at
17 \$85,000.00; and

18 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of the
19 SMILE program and its dedicated founder, Coach John Miller, are appropriately recognized.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body honor the Student Mentoring in Life and Education program and

22 its founder, Coach John Miller, and extend to them their most sincere best wishes for
23 continued success.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
25 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Student Mentoring in
26 Life and Education program and its founder, Coach John Miller.