

House Resolution 149

By: Representatives Holmes of the 129th and Yates of the 73rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending William Arthur Connelly on his significant accomplishments
2 and inviting him to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, William Arthur Connelly, born in Monticello, Georgia, bravely served in the
4 United States Army for over 33 years, beginning his career as a National Guardsman in
5 Americus, Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, he served in various positions world wide as a tank crewman, tank commander,
7 platoon sergeant, and command sergeant major while on active duty status from 1954 to
8 1983; and during the Vietnam War, he served as First Sergeant Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th
9 Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division from October 1969 to November 1970; and

10 WHEREAS, he was sworn into office as the sixth Sergeant Major of the Army on July 2,
11 1979, and served as the principal enlisted advisor to the Army Chief of Staff, and he
12 additionally served on numerous boards and commissions at the behest of the Chief of Staff,
13 traveling extensively to hear the concerns of servicemen and women; and

14 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has earned numerous awards, including the
15 Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal with V Device with two Oak Leaf Clusters,
16 Meritorious Service with an Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with V Device with two Oak Leaf
17 Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, numerous campaign and
18 service medals, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Aircraft Crewman's Badge, the Army General
19 Staff Identification Badge, and the Doughboy Award, the highest honor one can receive from
20 the Department of the Infantry; and

21 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan appointed him as special assistant to the Secretary of
22 the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he served for three years, and then he went on to
23 served as the Director of Public Affairs and Programs Manager for the Veterans Affairs
24 Hospital; and

25 WHEREAS, he also served as cochairman of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Retiree's
26 Council, on the Board of Trustees of the Association of the United States Army, and on the
27 Board of Directors of the Soldiers and Airman's Home; and

28 WHEREAS, William Arthur Connelly was subsequently inducted into the Georgia National
29 Guard Hall of Fame; and

30 WHEREAS, he currently resides in Monticello with his beautiful wife, Bennie Newton
31 Connelly; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
33 distinguished individual be recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend William Arthur Connelly for his efficient, effective,
36 unselfish, and dedicated public service and invite him to be recognized at a date and time
37 designated by the Speaker of the House.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to William Arthur Connelly.