

House Resolution 158

By: Representatives Coomer of the 14th, Meadows of the 5th, Battles of the 15th, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Willard of the 51st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Etowah Valley Young Marines unit; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls,
4 ages eight through completion of high school, that serves as the focal point of the U.S.
5 Marine Corps' Youth and Drug Demand Reduction efforts; and

6 WHEREAS, the Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of
7 its members through character building, leadership, and healthy lifestyles; and

8 WHEREAS, the Young Marines was founded in 1959 in Waterbury, Connecticut, and has
9 since grown to over 300 units with 10,000 youth and 3,000 adult volunteers in the United
10 States alone; and

11 WHEREAS, since 2001, the Young Marines has been presented with five Annual Fulcrum
12 Shield Awards for Excellence in Youth Anti-Drug Programs; and

13 WHEREAS, eight dedicated adults originally formed the Etowah Valley unit of the Young
14 Marines in Cartersville, Georgia, which was chartered on October 26, 2010; and

15 WHEREAS, since the Etowah Valley Young Marines held their first meeting on November
16 6, 2010, which two youth members attended, the unit has grown to encompass 32 youth
17 members and 11 registered adults; and

18 WHEREAS, upon joining the Etowah Valley Young Marines unit, youth undergo a
19 seven-week orientation program, meeting on Saturdays with one weekend-long overnight
20 training exercise; and

21 WHEREAS, the program teaches youth members history, customs and courtesies, close order
22 drill, physical fitness, and military rank structure; and

23 WHEREAS, youth members have the opportunity to learn more new skills, earn rank, wear
24 the Young Marines uniform, and work toward ribbon awards in areas such as leadership,
25 community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid, and drug resistance education;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the unwavering dedication to providing
28 guidance to American youth displayed by this organization be recognized as a testament to
29 the power a small group has when they unite for the common purpose of improving a
30 community by enlightening the next generation.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body commend the Etowah Valley Young Marines for their inspiring
33 progress and wish them many more years of growth.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Etowah Valley Young
36 Marines Unit Commander Jared Massingill.