

House Resolution 288

By: Representatives Sims of the 123rd, Howard of the 124th, Smyre of the 135th, Frazier of the 126th, Smith of the 125th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Speaker Pro Tempore Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Speaker Pro Tempore Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr., on February
5 6, 2013, at the age of 93; and

6 WHEREAS, Speaker Connell was an Augusta businessman known for his warm smile,
7 humble sincerity, and longtime legislative service; and

8 WHEREAS, after he graduated from the Academy of Richmond County in 1936, Speaker
9 Connell attended North Georgia College for two years; and

10 WHEREAS, one of his favorite stories to tell from his years as a student was the occasion
11 of his kidnapping when he was 17 years old; three men stole a car from the motor company
12 where his father worked and held Speaker Connell captive in the back seat, but he managed
13 to escape through sheer luck and determination; and

14 WHEREAS, Speaker Connell worked for Georgia Railroad Bank in Augusta until 1942,
15 when he enlisted in the Army Air Force and served in World War II in the 386th air group
16 stationed in Colchester, England; and

17 WHEREAS, he was a true American hero whose crew, upon receiving orders two days
18 before the D-Day invasion of Normandy to return to the United States, unanimously voted
19 to remain and participate; and

20 WHEREAS, after World War II, Speaker Connell returned home to become a traveling
21 salesman and later began several Augusta businesses, including a temporary employment
22 agency, a print shop, and Sandwich City; he even ran Augusta's minor league baseball team,

23 citing his responsibility to the team as "a labor of love" and influencing the team's name
24 change from the Augusta Tigers to the Augusta Rams; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1969, he began his first term in the Georgia House of Representatives, where
26 his leadership roles would make him a key player in the budget process; he served as Speaker
27 Pro Tempore for 26 years before retiring; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
29 for dignity, initiative, and service, and this true gentleman will long be remembered for his
30 inspiring dedication and exemplary leadership.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Speaker Pro Tempore Atticus Jerome
33 "Jack" Connell, Jr., extend their heartfelt condolences to his family, and express their sincere
34 regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Speaker Pro
37 Tempore Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.