

House Resolution 294

By: Representatives Morris of the 156th, Parrish of the 158th, and Hatchett of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Representative Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr.; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Representative Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr., on January 1, 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Gillis began his legacy of service in the Georgia House of
6 Representatives immediately after completing his college career; he served from 1941 to
7 1944 and again from 1949 to 1956; and

8 WHEREAS, a man of conviction and courage, Representative Gillis was the only lawmaker
9 to vote on both bills to change the state flag in 1956 and 2001, demonstrating his steadfast
10 commitment to his principles for which he was well known by his friends and colleagues;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, during his career in the House of Representatives, Representative Gillis served
13 through four Governors, Eugene Talmadge, Ellis Gibbs Arnall, Herman Talmadge, and S.
14 Marvin Griffin; three United States Presidents, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and
15 Dwight D. Eisenhower; and four Speakers of the House of Representatives, Randall Evans,
16 Jr., Roy V. Harris, Frederick Barrow Hand, and Marvin E. Moate; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Gillis was credited with helping address a shortage of doctors
18 and dentists in rural Georgia during the 1950s by voting to establish rural hospitals and
19 starting a dental school at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta; and

20 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the passage of countless pieces of legislation passed in
21 Georgia related to hunting, fishing, and other natural resources issues, and the Department
22 of Natural Resources renamed the Laurens County Public Fishing Area and Lake as the Hugh
23 M. Gillis Fishing Area and Lake in honor of his contributions; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Gillis was united in love and marriage to Mrs. Laura Jean Gillis
25 and Mrs. Montez Champion Gillis and was blessed with three remarkable children, Hugh Jr.,
26 Donald, and Jeanmarie; and

27 WHEREAS, by the end of his career, Representative Gillis had worked with 13 different
28 Governors and served in the Georgia General Assembly for 55 years, making him the longest
29 serving member; and

30 WHEREAS, Representative Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr., was a person of magnanimous
31 strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, service, fairness, and
32 kindness which continues to leave a lasting impression upon the House of Representatives,
33 and, by the example he made of his life, he made this world a better place in which to live.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Representative Hugh
36 Marion Gillis, Sr., and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Representative
39 Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr.