

House Resolution 295

By: Representatives Morris of the 156th, Jones of the 47th, O`Neal of the 146th, and Sheldon of the 104th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Mary Baker Black Rice; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Mrs. Mary Baker Black Rice on January 23, 2013; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rice was born on January 26, 1912, in Sylvania, Georgia, a beloved
5 daughter of Elizabeth Wyche and Thomas Jerrold Black; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she received her early education in Sylvania and graduated from Women's
7 College of Georgia with a major in English and history; and
- 8 WHEREAS, for several years, Mrs. Rice taught school in Oliver and Tate, Georgia, and
9 moved to Vidalia in 1937, where she met her husband, to teach social studies; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rice was united in love and marriage to William Capers Rice, a widower
11 with three cherished children who she loved as her own, and the two were blessed with four
12 more remarkable children, 15 beautiful grandchildren, nine precious great-grandchildren, and
13 two beloved great-great grandchildren; and
- 14 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Mrs. Rice served as a deacon, elder,
15 president of the Women of the Church, and circle leader at Vidalia Presbyterian Church; and
- 16 WHEREAS, she stood tall in support of her nation and was a pioneer in the South to get
17 women involved in politics, encouraging participation in the process of elections at city,
18 county, state, and national levels; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rice was the first woman elected to serve on the Toombs County Board
20 of Commissioners and served until she retired after the completion of her fourth term; and

21 WHEREAS, she served as Republican National Committeewoman for Georgia from 1960
22 to 1964 and opened doors of encouragement by example in support of the two-party system
23 in Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rice also left her mark as a member of the Toombs County Board of
25 Health, a member of the Altamaha Planning and Development Commission, a charter
26 member and past president of the Pine Ridge Garden Club, a past president of the Vidalia
27 Women's Club, and past chapter regent and chapter chaplain of the Vidalia chapter of the
28 National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, of which she was the
29 longest-standing member; and

30 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
31 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example she made of her life,
32 she made this world a better place in which to live.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Mary Baker Black
35 Rice and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Mary
38 Baker Black Rice.