

House Resolution 379

By: Representatives McCall of the 33rd, Channell of the 120th, and Fleming of the 121st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association for its efforts to preserve and protect
2 the land where the Battle of Kettle Creek was fought, promote awareness of the battle's
3 importance in American history, and recognize the heroic actions of free and enslaved
4 colonists of Wilkes County in support of American independence; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Battle of Kettle Creek, a military engagement that proved to be of
6 significant importance to American colonists fighting for their independence from England,
7 occurred in Wilkes County, Georgia, on February 14, 1779; and

8 WHEREAS, in the early years of the American Revolution, British and Loyalist troops
9 controlled virtually all of colonial Georgia, including the coastal region, Savannah, and
10 Augusta, and Georgia's revolutionary government was in disarray; and

11 WHEREAS, in early 1779 British Col. James Boyd assembled a force of 600 Loyalist
12 Americans in North and South Carolina to invade Wilkes County in a grand scheme to rally
13 colonists there to join the British cause and produce a counter American revolution; and

14 WHEREAS, by February 14, 1779, Col. Boyd's force had entered Georgia, crossed through
15 Wilkes County, and encamped at Kettle Creek, near the present-day city of Washington,
16 Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, a militia of some 340 South Carolina and Wilkes County Georgia patriots, led
18 by Col. Andrew Pickens, Col. John Dooley, and Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke, launched a surprise
19 attack on the British force that day at Kettle Creek, killing 20 of the Loyalists and Col. Boyd,
20 and utterly routing the British force; and

21 WHEREAS, the Battle of Kettle Creek was Georgia's most memorable and significant
22 victory against Great Britain during the American Revolution and established beyond doubt

23 that the colonists of Wilkes County firmly supported and were willing to fight for American
24 independence; and

25 WHEREAS, the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association seeks to preserve and protect the land
26 where the battle was fought and develop it into a permanent memorial so that Georgians and
27 Americans might understand and better appreciate the significance of the battle and the valor
28 and sacrifices of their colonial forbears.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize and commend the Kettle Creek Battlefield Association
31 for its ongoing efforts to preserve, protect, and develop one of the few Revolutionary War
32 sites in Georgia still in its pristine condition.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Kettle Creek Battlefield
35 Association.