

House Resolution 480

By: Representative Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mrs. Sarah Verner on the occasion of her retirement; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sarah Verner celebrates the fourth retirement of her working career as she  
4 bids a bittersweet farewell to her latest role as the executive director of the Blue Ridge  
5 Mountains Arts Association; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Sarah Verner has long been recognized by her colleagues for the vital role  
7 that she has played in reorganizing and preserving the Art Center and her deep personal  
8 commitment to overseeing its growth and stability; and

9 WHEREAS, she has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of her time,  
10 talents, and energy toward the betterment of the Art Center as evidenced by the numerous  
11 programs, facilities, galleries, festivals, and classes she has implemented in the six years she  
12 has served at the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association; and

13 WHEREAS, she has previously worked as Chief Financial Officer for Fannin Regional  
14 Hospital in Fannin County, Georgia; Chief Executive Officer for a small hospital in Bonifay,  
15 Florida; and vice president of sales and marketing for a health systems software company in  
16 Nashville, Tennessee; and

17 WHEREAS, Mrs. Verner's characteristic willingness dedicate her time to organizations that  
18 need improvement in order to flourish has earned her the nickname "Pigpen," as she is  
19 famous among her peers for tackling messy areas with such gusto that once the area is  
20 restored and refined, there she is, covered in residue and looking like a pigpen; and

21 WHEREAS, a selfless champion in her community, Mrs. Verner wanted the Art Center to  
22 survive for the 200 community leaders who started it and for her own family that has resided  
23 in Blue Ridge, Georgia, for the past five generations; and

24 WHEREAS, under her direction, the Art Center's exhibits have increased and at the present  
25 time there are 2,500 pieces of artwork on display with an equal number on reserve; and

26 WHEREAS, Mrs. Verner was honored at a reception held at the Richard Low Evans Gallery  
27 at the Art Center on December 18, 2012; and

28 WHEREAS, upon her retirement she plans to stay busy by traveling with her beloved  
29 husband, Sonny Verner, and two precious grandchildren; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
31 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body commend Mrs. Sarah Verner for her efficient, effective, unselfish,  
34 and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia, congratulate her upon the grand  
35 occasion of her retirement, and extend to her their most sincere best wishes for continued  
36 health and happiness.

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 Mrs. Sarah Verner.