

## House Resolution 609

By: Representatives Dunahoo of the 30<sup>th</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Barr of the 103<sup>rd</sup>, Rogers of the 10<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. R. Mark Coleman on the occasion of his retirement; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. R. Mark Coleman, Principal of Flowery Branch High School, Global  
4 Studies and Leadership Academy, will retire on May 31, 2013 after completing 35 years of  
5 outstanding service in education; and

6 WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Science degree from North Georgia College,  
7 Masters of Arts in educational administration from Western Carolina University, and  
8 Doctorate of Education in educational leadership from Nova University; and

9 WHEREAS, he completed the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement and was  
10 a graduate of the Superintendent's Professional Development Program and the Leadership  
11 Georgia Program; and he was selected for summer study at Harvard University; and

12 WHEREAS, he served in the United States Infantry in 1983 and he finished as executive  
13 officer of the 82nd Maintenance Company in 1991; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman was teacher and coach at Rabun County High School and went  
15 on to become principal, athletic director, and coach of Rabun Gap Nacoochee; and

16 WHEREAS, he began his esteemed career as an educator in Hall County as an assistant  
17 principal at West Hall Middle and then as principal at Friendship Elementary, and he later  
18 opened Flowery Branch High School in 2001, bringing many contributions and innovations  
19 to his staff, teachers, and community; and

20 WHEREAS, under his leadership, Flowery Branch High School became a School of  
21 Excellence in 2007 and the first charter high school in Hall County, the Global Studies and  
22 Leadership Academy in 2012; and

23 WHEREAS, his contributions were recognized by the Governor's Office of Student  
24 Achievement for greatest gain in percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards on  
25 the Georgia High School Graduation Test; and he led the planning and implementation of  
26 drug testing for high school athletes, providing a model for other school systems throughout  
27 the Southeast; and

28 WHEREAS, he received numerous coaching honors, including Region 8A and State 8A  
29 Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1983 and 1985, respectively, and led his teams to  
30 many region championships and a state championship in 1985; and he was also the Region  
31 8AA Tennis Coach of the Year in 1978; and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Coleman has earned the admiration and respect of his students and  
33 colleagues in Hall County due to his dedication, collegiality, enthusiasm, professionalism,  
34 sense of humor, and hard work, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that he be recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body commend Dr. R. Mark Coleman for his efficient and unselfish  
37 public service and congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his retirement.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. R. Mark Coleman.