

## House Resolution 752

By: Representatives Rogers of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Holmes of the 129<sup>th</sup>, Hawkins of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Dunahoo of the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Barr of the 103<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Thomas Durward Pennington, Jr.; 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 Thomas Durward Pennington, Jr., on March 4, 2013, at the age of 73; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Durward was born in Albany, Georgia, and graduated from Albany High  
5 School where he was a four-sport letterman and is in the Albany Sports Hall of Fame; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he went to the University of Georgia (UGA) on a football scholarship and  
7 kicked the winning point to secure the SEC title for Georgia in 1959; and in 1961 Durward  
8 kicked a 52 yard field goal that was a UGA record for 13 years; and
- 9 WHEREAS, after graduation, he was drafted by the Buffalo Bills and played for two years  
10 for the Dallas Texans; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in 1965 Durward became the assistant coach at Gainesville High School (GHS)  
12 and was affectionately known as "Coach P"; and after eight years, he left GHS to accept a  
13 business position with his father-in-law, Charles Thurmond, but he never gave up coaching,  
14 and became a volunteer coach for GHS athletics throughout his life and a positive influence  
15 on generations of young men; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he did so much behind the scenes for those who were in need, never turning his  
17 back on any athlete who needed words of encouragement or financial help; and
- 18 WHEREAS, because of his unselfish dedication to young people, Durward received the  
19 Kiwanis Youth Service Award in 2002 and an honorary diploma from GHS; and he  
20 continued to be loyal to UGA, endowing the Durward and Betsy Pennington Scholarship for  
21 football players; and

22 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Durward Pennington, Sr., and  
23 Irene Davenport Pennington; his brother, Milton Jackson Pennington; and his grandson,  
24 Tyler Wahl Safarriyeh; and

25 WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Betsy Thurmond; son and  
26 daughter-in-law, Thomas Durward Pennington III and Melissa Miller Pennington; daughter  
27 and son-in-law, Susan Pennington Rosetti and Marcus Rosetti; daughter and son-in-law,  
28 Carrie Pennington Safarriyeh and Jeff Safarriyeh; grandchildren, Thomas Durward  
29 Pennington IV, Sophie Rosetti, Grant Rosetti, Olivia Rosetti, Brandon Safarriyeh, Ella  
30 Safarriyeh, Black Safarriyeh, and Emma Safarriyeh; sister, Becky Pennington Knight; and  
31 a host of other loving family and friends; and

32 WHEREAS, he was a devoted family man, husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be  
33 missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

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 Thomas Durward  
36 Pennington, Jr., 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 Thomas  
39 Durward Pennington, Jr.