

House Resolution 835

By: Representatives Brooks of the 55th and Thomas of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Deacon Johnny Anthony Neal; 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 Deacon Johnny Anthony Neal on March 11, 2013; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born on November 15, 1958, in Atlanta, Georgia, a beloved son of John
5 T. Carter and Rossie Neal; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Deacon Neal attended E. R. Carter Elementary School, John F. Kennedy
7 Middle School, and Booker T. Washington High School, where he played football, wore the
8 powerful number 51, was captain of the football team, and won the "Golden Helmet" award,
9 and graduated in 1976 with honors and achievements; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he attended Morehouse College for two years and later graduated from Georgia
11 State University in 2008; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 1977, he met the love of his life, Leverne Archibald, and after a two-year
13 courtship, the two were joined in holy matrimony on January 26, 1980; they were blessed
14 with a wonderful son, Christian Alexander Neal; and
- 15 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Deacon Neal accepted Christ into his life at
16 an early age; he was baptized at Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church by Dr. R. L. White, Jr., and
17 remained an active member of Mt. Ephraim from 1974 until his death; and
- 18 WHEREAS, he was one of the founding members of the Mt. Ephraim Young Adult Choir
19 and also served as youth advisor, assistant Sunday school superintendent, a Mt. Ephraim
20 Christian League usher, and Church historian and in the Boy Scouts and Men of Mt. Ephraim
21 United for Christ; and

22 WHEREAS, a faithful servant of God, Deacon Neal served on the Mt. Ephraim Officers'
23 Prep Board, Trustee Board, and later was elevated to the Deacon Board; and

24 WHEREAS, Deacon Neal worked tirelessly with the Atlanta Fire Department as a fireman
25 for 30 years, beginning in 1980, and during that time, he was promoted from sergeant to
26 lieutenant and received numerous awards; and

27 WHEREAS, he was recently preceded in death by his loving and faithful wife, Leverne, and
28 one sister, Melissa Alexander; and he leaves to cherish his memory a devoted son, Christian
29 Alexander Neal, a dedicated mother, Pastor Rossie Gay, father, John T. Carter, and two
30 devoted brothers, Ricky Neal and Mickey Neal; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Deacon Neal will long be remembered for
32 his love of family, friendship, and God, and this loyal son, husband, and father will be missed
33 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 Deacon Johnny Anthony
36 Neal 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 Deacon
39 Johnny Anthony Neal.