

House Resolution 1370

By: Representatives Frazier of the 126th, Brooks of the 55th, Abrams of the 89th, Harbin of the 122nd, Howard of the 124th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mayor Emma Gresham and dedicating a road in her memory; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Honorable Emma Gresham has long been recognized by the citizens of this
4 state for the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment
5 to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, she diligently and conscientiously devoted over two decades of her time,
7 talents, and energy to improving the lives of her neighbors as mayor of the Town of
8 Keysville; and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor Gresham was born in 1925 in Reidsville, Georgia, the beloved daughter
10 of Reverend Marvin B. Rhodes, an African Methodist Episcopal pastor and teacher, and Ida
11 Rhodes, a church missionary and Sunday school teacher; and

12 WHEREAS, a graduate of Boggs Academy, Mayor Gresham devoted 32 years to challenging
13 and inspiring the future leaders of this state as an educator in Augusta, teaching second grade
14 and mentally challenged students; and

15 WHEREAS, in the early 1980's, she became involved with Keysville Concerned Citizens,
16 a group seeking better living conditions for the community, and through her work with this
17 group, Mayor Gresham learned that Keysville had been registered as a town and
18 incorporated, yet had not had official leadership in 55 years; and

19 WHEREAS, determined to improve the lives of her neighbors through public service, Mayor
20 Gresham was elected mayor in 1985, but due to a loophole in the town's charter which
21 prevented an official election, Mayor Gresham served as mayor for only five hours; and

22 WHEREAS, after several years of community outreach, legal battles, and two Supreme
23 Court cases, Keysville held an election for mayor in 1988, and Mayor Gresham was again
24 recognized by the people as the most fitting person to lead; and

25 WHEREAS, located 25 miles south of Augusta in Burke County, Keysville is home to an
26 unofficial population of 319 and during Mayor Gresham's tenure established a water system,
27 a waste-water treatment plant, city streetlights, and a health facility and earned the title of a
28 Certified Literate Community; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
30 this distinguished woman be recognized by dedicating a road in her honor.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL
32 ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of State Route 88 in the city limits of Keysville
33 in Burke County is dedicated as the Mayor Emma Gresham Highway.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and
35 directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the Mayor Emma Gresham
36 Highway.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Mayor Emma Gresham and
39 to the Department of Transportation.