

House Resolution 1552

By: Representative Beverly of the 143rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Rita B. Maynard in honor of Black History Month; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, a former resident of Macon, Georgia, Rita B. Maynard was a pillar in the
3 community who progressively modeled and created opportunities for Macon's underserved
4 population, giving them a chance to thrive with independence; and

5 WHEREAS, her pioneering legacy, altruism, and service to the Macon community are a
6 testimony to her tenacious spirit, which continues to motivate today's civic-minded
7 entrepreneurial population; and

8 WHEREAS, Rita was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama, as part of a large but closely knit
9 Catholic family consisting of her mother, father, two brothers, and four sisters; her mother
10 was a homemaker, and her father worked as an independent brick mason contractor; and

11 WHEREAS, shortly after moving from Mobile to settle in Macon, Georgia, during the 1940s,
12 she qualified and was awarded a Georgia license as a Master Cosmetologist, and after
13 working for a year at a local Macon beauty shop, she opened Maynard's Beauty School; and

14 WHEREAS, Rita operated as sole proprietor for 14 years and successfully trained more than
15 100 young women from around the Macon and Middle Georgia area as beauticians; and

16 WHEREAS, in an effort to ensure accessibility, she provided housing accommodations for
17 her out of town students, which helped to expedite and facilitate the transition from their
18 local areas to Macon; and

19 WHEREAS, Rita orchestrated formal celebratory graduation ceremonies at local churches,
20 which were attended by the proud relatives and friends of her graduates; and

21 WHEREAS, these graduates maintained a consistent 95 percent success rate on passing the
22 Georgia State Board Exam, which enabled them to become positive contributors to their
23 families and the economy of their local areas; and

24 WHEREAS, Rita also opened three beauty shops in the Macon area where her students
25 worked in an on-the-job training program; the beauty shops became a source of immediate
26 gainful employment for many of her graduates, thus eliminating the financial burden and
27 usual delay associated with the need to set up shop and build clientele; and

28 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to Eugene De Melvin Maynard and was
29 blessed with three remarkable children, Emogene, Patricia, and Walter; and

30 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Rita Maynard was an active member of
31 Saint Peter Claver Catholic Church, helping with fundraising events and providing fresh
32 baked goods; and

33 WHEREAS, not to be deterred by the circumstances of age, Rita, in her later years, opened
34 a day care center for disadvantaged children and subsequently opened and operated a
35 personal care home for elderly and disabled persons; and

36 WHEREAS, Rita was laid to rest in Macon, Georgia, in December of 1994 and is survived
37 by her three children, daughter-in law, two grandchildren, one great-grandson, and numerous
38 loved ones; and

39 WHEREAS, her impact lives on in her family, in the great State of Georgia, and in the
40 community at large; Rita was a trailblazer, a beacon of hope, and an inspiration to future
41 generations, and it is only fitting and proper that she be recognized.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body recognize the great work and many accomplishments of Rita B.
44 Maynard in honor of Black History Month.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Rita B.
47 Maynard.