

House Resolution 1747

By: Representative Smith of the 125th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the Parade of Quartets; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Parade of Quartets, originally hosted by Steve Manderson, began in the
3 1950's in the transition of WJBF radio to television under the leadership of J. B. Fuqua and
4 featured African American gospel groups; and
- 5 WHEREAS, some of the original groups to appear on the program included the Abraham
6 Brothers, Swanee Quintet, Veteran Harmonizers, and the Gospel Echo Soul Stirrers; and
- 7 WHEREAS, political figures and community leaders appeared on the program as well,
8 including Reverends Jesse L. Jackson and Al Sharpton, Phil Graham, Governor Roy Barnes,
9 Mayor Ed McIntyre, Senator Charles Walker, and Mayor Willie Mays; and
- 10 WHEREAS, groups would sing, discuss their sponsor, and express the benefits of
11 fundraising projects for various churches and groups; and
- 12 WHEREAS, upon the retirement of Steve Manderson, Henry L. Howard became the Parade
13 of Quartets' host and producer, and was the lead singer and manager of the Spirits of
14 Harmony, who were regulars to the program; and
- 15 WHEREAS, the Parade of Quartets became a force in gospel music, making Augusta a
16 magnet for national gospel acts; it was a valuable resource that drew musical groups to
17 Augusta to perform live on network television and concerts; and
- 18 WHEREAS, tragedy struck the Howard Family in 1982 with the passing of Henry Howard's
19 mother; his son, Karlton Howard, stood in as host and still continues in that role today; and

20 WHEREAS, in June 2013, the Parade of Quartets received the Lifetime Achievement award
21 from the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, reaffirming its history as being the longest
22 running television program in the State of Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, with a new wave of quartet singers entering the program, the Parade of Quartets
24 will continue to play a major role in the preservation of this American art form.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize the Parade of Quartets for its countless accomplishments
27 in the radio and television broadcast industries and express their sincerest best wishes for
28 continued success.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Parade of Quartets.