

## House Resolution 1896

By: Representatives Welch of the 110<sup>th</sup>, Strickland of the 111<sup>th</sup>, Rutledge of the 109<sup>th</sup>, Atwood of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Caldwell of the 131<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending A.J. "Buddy" Welch, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, A.J. "Buddy" Welch, Jr., has long been recognized by the citizens of this state  
4 for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the  
5 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Welch served as the Chief Judge of the Juvenile Court of the Flint Judicial  
7 Circuit for 38 and a half years, from July 1, 1975, until December 31, 2013; and

8 WHEREAS, he was the first juvenile court judge of the Flint Judicial Circuit and was  
9 instrumental in beginning an independent juvenile court out from under the superior court;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Welch's goal for his service was to, in some small way, help wayward  
12 children and strengthen families in Henry County; and

13 WHEREAS, he established a community service program where the juveniles that were  
14 sentenced to community service would clean up abandoned cemeteries around the county,  
15 and he was instrumental in opening the Boys Home in Hampton; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Welch always enjoyed hearing the success stories from those who came  
17 back to him and was instrumental in the court obtaining many grants through the years for  
18 programs under the court for children and families; and

19 WHEREAS, he served as the president of Council of Juvenile Court Judges from 1999-2000,  
20 and in 2000, he led the effort and was instrumental in the passage of legislation to provide  
21 state funding for salaries of juvenile court judges; and

22 WHEREAS, during Mr. Welch's service on the council, he served on the following  
23 committees: Uniform Rules, Legislative, Benchbook, Education/Certification, Indigent  
24 Defense, and Delinquent/Unruly; and

25 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience  
26 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this  
27 state have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Welch has served with honor and distinction with the Juvenile Court of the  
29 Flint Judicial Circuit, and his vision and unyielding commitment will be sorely missed upon  
30 the occasion of his retirement; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
32 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
34 the members of this body commend A.J. "Buddy" Welch, Jr., for his efficient, effective,  
35 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia; congratulate him upon the  
36 grand occasion of his retirement; and extend to him their most sincere best wishes for  
37 continued health and happiness.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to A.J. "Buddy" Welch, Jr.