

## House Resolution 2039

By: Representatives Golick of the 40<sup>th</sup>, Evans of the 42<sup>nd</sup>, and Teasley of the 37<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Lance Cooper; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, six days after General Motors Company recalled almost 800,000 Chevrolet  
3 Cobalts and Pontiac G5s for a defect that could cause surprise engine shutdowns, lawyer  
4 Lance Cooper, a solo practitioner from Marietta, sent government regulators a letter stating  
5 that there were more faulty GM models out there; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the recalls have clouded the reputation of the biggest United States automaker  
7 and spurred new searches for deaths connected with the cars; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Lance Cooper single-handedly set the stage for the recall and is credited with  
9 being the first to create a public record of what GM did with the ignition switch; and
- 10 WHEREAS, bringing a wrongful death lawsuit against GM, Mr. Cooper obtained more than  
11 32,000 pages of related lawsuits and other documents from the company, deposed about a  
12 dozen of its engineers, and gathered assessments of the ignition issue from dealers; and
- 13 WHEREAS, GM settled with his clients for an undisclosed amount last September, and five  
14 months later, the company announced its recall; shortly after that, it gave government  
15 regulators a timeline of the company's knowledge of the defect that was consistent with his  
16 findings, including engineers' decade-long awareness of it; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper is no big-firm litigator; he is a graduate of Emory University School  
18 of Law, employs a handful of people, and litigated his case against GM mostly with the help  
19 of his paralegal, Doreen Lundrigan; and

20 WHEREAS, he was approached in February, 2011, by the family of Brooke Melton, a 29  
21 year old Georgia pediatric nurse who died in March, 2010, after her 2005 Chevy Cobalt lost  
22 power, veered into the opposite highway lane, and hit an oncoming car; and

23 WHEREAS, the case would soon lead Mr. Cooper to initiate the GM recall and to his  
24 subsequent rise in popularity, with several would-be plaintiffs seeking to partner with him;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of Mr.  
27 Cooper, and his paralegal, Doreen Lundrigan, be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body recognize and commend Lance Cooper for his dedication and  
30 commitment to the safety and well-being of the citizens of Georgia.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
32 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Lance Cooper.