

House Resolution 141

By: Representatives Stephens of the 165th, Gordon of the 163rd, Stephens of the 164th, Bryant of the 162nd, Petrea of the 166th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bethesda Academy on the occasion of its 275th anniversary;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Bethesda Academy will celebrate its 275th anniversary this year, a landmark
4 milestone for Savannah's iconic boarding and day school for boys in grades six through 12;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Bethesda will kick off a year-long anniversary celebration with a special
7 evening at its annual Scholarship Gala on May 15, 2015, which raises critical scholarship
8 dollars for its students; and

9 WHEREAS, the academy does not receive any state funding to cover the \$3.4 million per
10 year it costs to operate and depends largely on private donations, external scholarship
11 programs such as the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, annual fundraising events, and
12 a collection of on-campus business enterprises that cumulatively help meet its annual budget;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Bethesda was founded in 1740 by Reverend George Whitefield as a home for
15 boys and has the distinction of being the oldest child caring institute in America, located on
16 a lush 650-acre campus overlooking Moon River, just 11 miles from historic downtown
17 Savannah; and

18 WHEREAS, Bethesda is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and
19 is also AdvancEd accredited with 95 percent of its students graduating on time and 87
20 percent going on to higher education; and

21 WHEREAS, this values-laden educational institution has raised the bar when it comes to
22 educating Georgia's young men, strongly emphasizing George Whitefield's founding mission
23 to teach "a love for God, a love of learning, and a strong work ethic"; and

24 WHEREAS, early supporters of the institution included James Habersham, a close friend of
25 George Whitefield, and Benjamin Franklin, one of America's founding fathers; and

26 WHEREAS, Bethesda Academy provides a holistic learning environment and a college
27 preparatory curriculum designed specifically around the ways that boys learn most
28 effectively.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize and commend Bethesda Academy on the grand occasion
31 of its 275th anniversary.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
34 Bethesda Academy.