

House Resolution 330

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st and Quick of the 117th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the rich cultural history of the Cross Roads School; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Cross Roads School was originally a part of the Cross Roads Community,
4 which was a small, rural settlement established in the 1870s by African-American freedmen
5 and farm workers at the junction of Harmony Grove-Athens Road (now U.S. Highway 441)
6 and the Jefferson-Danielsville Road; and

7 WHEREAS, the Cross Roads Community was composed of a one-room school building, the
8 Cross Roads A.M.E. Church, and a cemetery; and

9 WHEREAS, the Cross Roads School held classes as early as 1879 under the instruction of
10 Cicero Buffington, and it was one of only three schools for African-American children in the
11 Nicholson, Georgia, area during the late 19th century; and

12 WHEREAS, the school was awarded academic and financial support by the Negro Rural
13 School Fund, also known as the Jeanes Fund, in 1912; and

14 WHEREAS, the Cross Roads School building held classes for students in the first through
15 eighth grades, and average attendance ranged from 30 to 80 pupils, depending upon the
16 farming season; and

17 WHEREAS, the Cross Roads School was closed in the mid-1940s, and the building was used
18 as an agricultural outbuilding and later sat vacant before it was donated to the Tumbling
19 Waters Society and Jackson County Parks and Recreation on February 4, 2013; and

20 WHEREAS, the school building was moved to Heritage Village at Hurricane Shoals Park
21 and was restored and opened to the public on September 15, 2013; and

22 WHEREAS, the Cross Roads School Historical Marker will be dedicated on February 22,
23 2015; and

24 WHEREAS, this historical marker is dedicated to the families, students, and teachers who
25 attended and taught at Cross Roads School from 1879 through the mid-1940s, and this body
26 honors and remembers their many contributions to the State of Georgia.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize and commend the rich cultural history of the Cross
29 Roads School.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mayor
32 Ronnie Maxwell, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, the Jackson County Parks
33 and Recreation Department, the Tumbling Waters Society of Jackson County, the Cross
34 Roads Committee, and Representative Tommy Benton.