

House Resolution 402

By: Representatives Kidd of the 145th, Smyre of the 135th, and Geisinger of the 48th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Johnnie Lafayette Caldwell, Sr., and inviting his son,
2 Representative Johnnie Caldwell, Jr., and daughters, Patricia Caldwell Cox and Barbara
3 Caldwell Johnson, to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
5 with the passing of Johnnie Lafayette Caldwell, Sr., on December 15, 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Caldwell was born on August 10, 1922, in Taylor County, Georgia, a
7 beloved son of Johnnie William and Mattie Stalnaker Caldwell; and

8 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
9 States Army's Third Artillery in Normandy during the Battle of the Bulge and the capture of
10 Berlin during the Second World War; and

11 WHEREAS, he attended the Woodrow Wilson School of Law before practicing law in
12 Thomaston and Zebulon for many years; and

13 WHEREAS, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1954, where he
14 served as assistant floor leader for two governors, was the first Chairman of the House
15 Reapportionment Committee, and authored the bill for the inception of the Georgia Technical
16 Colleges; and

17 WHEREAS, he was elected Comptroller General in 1970, and he also served as the State
18 Insurance Commissioner and the State Fire Marshall; and

19 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the insurance industry in Georgia was largely reshaped in
20 the early 1970s with the introduction and passage of legislation that offered more consumer
21 protection including "no fault insurance"; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Caldwell was instrumental in requiring all health insurance policies to
23 reimburse their clients for outpatient surgeries, making Georgia the first state to require this,
24 and ultimately took this issue to Washington, D.C.; and

25 WHEREAS, he was recognized as a leader among his national peers and was twice elected
26 President of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and he retired from his
27 position of Insurance Commissioner in 1985 while serving his fourth term; and

28 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Johnnie Caldwell, Sr., was an active member
29 of the First Baptist Church of Thomaston, where he served as the Builder's Class Sunday
30 School teacher for many years; and

31 WHEREAS, Johnnie Caldwell, Sr., was united in love and marriage to Martha Smisson and
32 was blessed with three remarkable children, Patricia, Barbara, and Johnnie, Jr., eight
33 wonderful grandchildren, Bill, Dana, Ben, John, David, Christen, Jay, and Laura, and 11
34 exceptional great-grandchildren; and

35 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Johnnie Lafayette Caldwell, Sr., will long
36 be remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, public
37 servant, and friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Johnnie Lafayette
40 Caldwell, Sr.; express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing; and invite his
41 children, Representative Johnnie Caldwell, Jr., Patricia Caldwell Cox, and Barbara Caldwell
42 Johnson, to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be
43 determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
46 family of Johnnie Lafayette Caldwell, Sr.