

House Resolution 543

By: Representatives Hawkins of the 27th, Rogers of the 29th, and Dunahoo of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Jim Lofton; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Jim Lofton on January 1, 2015; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Jim was born on April 12, 1929, in Memphis, Tennessee, a beloved son of
5 James Eules and Vonnie Moore Lofton; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans as a paratrooper;
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, Jim was awarded a football scholarship to Auburn University, where he roomed
10 with and played beside Vince Dooley; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Jim began his career as the assistant football coach at North Fulton High School
12 in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1954, and he went on to serve at Dykes High School, Jefferson High
13 School, Lee Academy, Springwood Academy, East Hall High School, North Hall High
14 School, and Greater Atlanta Christian School; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he coached football for 50 years, during which time he served as head football
16 coach for 39 years, won 255 games, and was named high school coach of the year many
17 times; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Jim specialized in turning losing football teams into championship teams, and
19 he shared his skills and experience with others in his book, *So You Think You Want To*
20 *Coach*; and

21 WHEREAS, according to Jim, the goal of his first book was "helping development football
22 coaches with a mission to turn boys into men that bring honor and glory to our Lord and
23 Savior by using the collective empowerment of teams, family, and community"; and

24 WHEREAS, Jim was united in love and marriage to Ruby Jean and was blessed with five
25 remarkable children, Jim, Bill, Dick, Bob, and John, and 24 beloved grandchildren; and

26 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
27 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
28 family and friends were admired by others; and

29 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
30 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
31 made this world a better place in which to live; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Jim Lofton will long be remembered for
33 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, coach, and friend will be
34 missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Jim Lofton and express
37 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 family of Jim Lofton.