

House Resolution 1602

By: Representatives Bryant of the 162nd, Gordon of the 163rd, Hitchens of the 161st, Williams of the 168th, Smyre of the 135th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Representative Dorothy Mae Barnes-Pelote; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Representative Dorothy Mae Barnes-Pelote passed away after a lifetime of
4 honorable service to this state and her community of Savannah, Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Barnes-Pelote, beloved daughter of Abraham Barnes and Ethel
6 Coleman Green, was born in Lancaster, South Carolina, and resided in Savannah, Georgia,
7 for more than 50 years; and

8 WHEREAS, she graduated from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, and
9 completed further studies at Savannah State College before teaching in the Savannah
10 Chatham County Public School System for more than 30 years; and

11 WHEREAS, she served in the Georgia General Assembly as a Representative for the 149th
12 House District (now District 162) from 1992 until her retirement in 2002, during which time
13 she worked tirelessly to pass bills and resolutions that benefited not only the citizens of
14 Savannah but the citizens of the entire State of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Barnes-Pelote successfully secured funds from the Governor's
16 Discretionary Fund for a number of local initiatives and secured millions of dollars for
17 various entities within her district for community improvements; and

18 WHEREAS, she served on the House Education Committee, Higher Education Committee,
19 Intra-Governmental Coordination Committee, Special Rules Committee, and Transportation
20 Committee; and

21 WHEREAS, she served on the Chatham County Commission representing the Eighth District
22 and was instrumental in having a traffic light installed on Bay and Graham Streets; and

23 WHEREAS, she spearheaded a campaign to place a marker and plant a tree in Kennedy Park
24 in honor of Earl T. Shinhoster, a Civil Rights leader who died in a car crash in Alabama; and

25 WHEREAS, Representative Barnes-Pelote was the first African American woman from
26 Chatham County to serve on two levels of government, as a county commissioner and as a
27 state representative; and

28 WHEREAS, she served as president of the Carver Heights Mission Improvement
29 Organization for many years, where she was able to personify the motto by which she lived,
30 "It is impossible to serve God without service to your fellow man"; and

31 WHEREAS, she was affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and later joined
32 Connor's Temple Baptist Church; and

33 WHEREAS, she was a member of Alpha Theta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.,
34 Phi Delta Kappa, International Order of the Eastern Star, and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
35 Observance Day Association, Inc.; and

36 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to Maceo Roosevelt Pelote, and was
37 blessed with two wonderful daughters, Deborah P. Allen and Miriam P. Heyward, and three
38 amazing grandchildren, NaSharra Nicole Allen, Lamar Maceo Heyward, and Stanley
39 Quinton Heyward; and

40 WHEREAS, Representative Dorothy Mae Barnes-Pelote lived a life of service to the State
41 of Georgia and its citizens, making it fitting and proper for her to be honored and
42 remembered for her vast achievements.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Representative Dorothy Mae
45 Barnes-Pelote and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
48 family of Representative Dorothy Mae Barnes-Pelote.