

House Resolution 207

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Frazier of the 126th, Gilligan of the 24th, Bazemore of the 63rd, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Watha Lee Alston for her outstanding contributions to the
2 United States and the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Watha Lee Alston was born on August 15, 1954, to sharecroppers Hiawatha and
4 Leaner Alston in Rowland, North Carolina; and

5 WHEREAS, Watha attended Lenoir Senior High School and Livingstone College in
6 Salisbury, North Carolina, where she was active in community and religious activities as well
7 as student support activities; and

8 WHEREAS, she married her wonderful and very supportive husband, Virgil C. Hooper, Sr.,
9 on May 5, 2007, after relocating to Augusta after Hurricane Katrina, and they have been
10 blessed with five children, Virgil, Jr., Glenn, Ronald, Wakia, and the late Sylvia; 14
11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, Watha joined the United States Army on May 23, 1978, as a Unit Supply
13 Specialist, a profession she grew to love, and eventually was promoted to Unit Supply Staff
14 Sergeant; and

15 WHEREAS, she served one tour in Zweibruecken, West Germany, and her stateside
16 assignments included Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Philadelphia,
17 Pennsylvania; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Lee, Virginia; and Fort Riley, Kansas; and

18 WHEREAS, Watha received an honorable medical military discharge and relocated to New
19 Orleans, Louisiana, to settle down for the rest of her life, but she was later forced to evacuate
20 and move to Augusta, Georgia, during Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and

21 WHEREAS, she is one of the founding members of the Women's Veterans Club of the
22 CSRA, in which she is the Commander, and she retired from DECA, Fort Gordon
23 Commissary as a Sales Store Checker in January, 2013; and

24 WHEREAS, Watha is a selfless caregiver with a love for volunteering, and she continues to
25 serve her country and community by assisting female veterans in various ways, such as by
26 assisting them with their transition to civilian life; and

27 WHEREAS, she is on the United Way Citizen Review Panel and an active member of the
28 VFW Post 649 Ladies Auxiliary, Augusta's Continuum of Care, Disabled Veterans of
29 America Chapter 18, Mundy-Beck 911 American Legion, Veterans Administration
30 Voluntary Service Committee, and Congressman Rick Allen's Veterans Advisory Board; and

31 WHEREAS, Watha sponsors Wreaths Across America and is a volunteer with the Augusta
32 Warriors, the Golden Harvest Food Bank, the Golden Harvest Soup Kitchen, the local Fisher
33 Houses, Parkway Place, the Women's Domiciliary at Charlie Norwood Veteran Hospital,
34 Operation Home Front, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Veteran Administration, and the
35 Salvation Army; and

36 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this outstanding Georgian be recognized
37 for her valuable contributions to this state and nation.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body recognize and commend Watha Lee Alston for her efficient,
40 effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
43 Watha Lee Alston.