

House Resolution 235

By: Representatives Stovall of the 74th, Taylor of the 173rd, Scott of the 76th, Jones of the 53rd, Thomas of the 56th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending the Jack Hadley Black History Museum for its historical
2 collection and preservation of local, state, and national African American history and culture;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, in 1979, in Wiesbaden, Germany, Chief Master Sergeant James "Jack" Hadley's
5 son, Jim Hadley, a junior in high school, came home from school and questioned his father
6 about his teacher's lack of interest in Black History Week; and

7 WHEREAS, this father/son conversation inaugurated the Black History Memorabilia
8 collection which today is on exhibit at the Jack Hadley Black History Museum in
9 Thomasville, Georgia, displaying local, state, and national African American historical and
10 cultural artifacts; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1995, Chief Hadley and his wife and children organized a nonprofit which
12 has consistently and selflessly collected, restored, and preserved African American artifacts;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, today, under the astute direction of founder/president/curator Mr. Jack Hadley,
15 the Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia, Inc., Museum boasts a collection of more than
16 4,751 pieces of African American artifacts and 529 members; and

17 WHEREAS, the museum's main objective is to spread the message to our young people,
18 regardless of race, that African Americans have accomplished great things in American
19 history, helping to build and shape America and its goals and dreams; and

20 WHEREAS, since opening the museum in its present location in 2006, more than 18,777
21 visitors have toured the museum, including 397 schools, churches, and youth groups, and
22 more than 73,000 visitors have visited the museum's website; and

23 WHEREAS, the museum's labor of love for collecting and preserving African American
24 heritage has culminated in a traveling exhibit of approximately 650 artifacts that have been
25 on exhibit at local schools in Southwest Georgia and North Florida and the establishment of
26 outreach programs at universities, colleges, technical colleges, public libraries, churches,
27 military units, nonprofit organizations, community youth centers, and Boy & Girl Clubs; and

28 WHEREAS, this impressive museum is located on the grounds of the former Douglass High
29 School, a segregated black high school from 1901 to 1970, from which Mr. Hadley graduated
30 in 1956, and with the collaborative support of the Douglass High School Alumni Association
31 succeeded in placing the Dewey City community in Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia,
32 on the National Register of Historical Places in 2008; and

33 WHEREAS, the museum has been the recipient of two federal grants: in 2012, the Institution
34 of Museum and Library awarded \$32,400 to hire a museum registrar and in 2016 awarded
35 \$115,904 to hire a consultant/museum educator to develop an educational pilot program of
36 African American history and culture for the area's middle schools, with plans to expand to
37 other schools in three years; and

38 WHEREAS, in 2014, a major donor, Mrs. Perra S. Bell, professor at Towson State
39 University in the 1970s, bequeathed her collection of 3,000 African American books to the
40 museum to be developed into a public and community research library called Bell's African
41 American Library; and

42 WHEREAS, the museum has been the recipient of several awards, including the Outstanding
43 Achievement Award by Thomasville Landmarks, Inc., in 2007 and the Georgia Association
44 of Museums and Galleries Honorable Mention for the Institution Award in 2010; and

45 WHEREAS, the museum was the driving force behind the establishment of a
46 commemorative United States postal stamp to honor Lt. Henry Ossian Flipper, who was born
47 a slave in Thomasville in 1856 and was the first African American to graduate from a United
48 States military academy, West Point, in 1877, and initiated a successful effort to name a post
49 office in Thomasville in his honor; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Hadley, the museum's founder/curator/president, grew up at Pebble Hill
51 Plantation with his 14 siblings where he received his early education in the plantation's
52 two-room school and his cultural education from his parents, from oral narratives shared
53 during family time, and from living and working on plantations; and

54 WHEREAS, Mr. Hadley served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the
55 United States Air Force, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during
56 the Vietnam War and retiring in 1984 with numerous decorations, medals, badges, citations,
57 and campaign ribbons for his 28 years of meritorious service; and

58 WHEREAS, he is a 33 Degree Scottish Rite Prince Hall Affiliation Free Mason, and in 1997
59 the museum organized an off-site masonic collection of 100 photographs at the Thomasville
60 Masonic Prince Hall Lodge, a pictorial Masonic Wall of Fame Exhibit from 1901 to the
61 present; and

62 WHEREAS, he is the developer of the City of Thomasville Black Heritage Trail Tour Guide,
63 one of the few in Georgia, featuring 68 historical African American sites, and coauthor of
64 *African Americans Life on the Southern Hunting Plantation*, stories of how African
65 Americans lived and worked on the southern hunting plantations, which was released in 2000
66 and has sold more than 5,000 copies; and

67 WHEREAS, Mr. Hadley has been recognized with several honors for his exemplary service,
68 including being the second African American recipient of the Thomasville Man of the Year
69 Award in 1995, the 2003 recipient of the Georgia Governor's Awards in the Humanities, the
70 2013 recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus' Veterans Brain Trust Award which was
71 presented by Representative Corrine Brown of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and
72 Representative Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., of the Second Congressional District of Georgia at
73 the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., and the 2014 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement
74 Award from the Thomasville/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce; and

75 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
76 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
78 the members of this body honor and commend the Jack Hadley Black History Museum for
79 its historical collection and preservation of African American history and culture on behalf
80 of the citizens of this state.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
82 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
83 Jack Hadley Black History Museum.