

House Resolution 795

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Abrams of the 89th, Burns of the 159th, Taylor of the 79th, Brockway of the 102nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Jonathan Blair Richards; 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 Jonathan Blair Richards on March 26, 2017; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Jonathan Blair Richards has long been recognized by the citizens of this state
5 for the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
6 welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he was the front-page editor of the Georgia focused political website,
8 PeachPundit, later serving as Editor-In-Chief of GeorgiaPol.com; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Jonathan was a staple of the Georgia statehouse press corps, organizing
10 countless GOP events across the state, taking thousands of pictures at gatherings and
11 committee meetings, and tirelessly chronicling the state's fast-moving political scene; and
- 12 WHEREAS, talented and dedicated, he received numerous awards and honors, including
13 being named Volunteer of the Year at the 2015 Georgia GOP Convention, which left him
14 beaming for days afterward; and
- 15 WHEREAS, born on November 27, 1955, in Ohio, Jonathan was a beloved son of the late
16 Glenn and Caroline Richards and a doting uncle to nephews Cal, Matthew, and Stuart; and
- 17 WHEREAS, a graduate of Indian Hill High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Jonathan earned a
18 bachelor's degree in communication from Allegheny College, after which he moved to
19 Lawrenceville, Georgia, where he began his career with Samna, now IBM; and

20 WHEREAS, a successful independent and self-made businessman, Jonathan created an early
21 web based enterprise and operated one of the first online weather services,
22 Lawrencevilleweather.com; and

23 WHEREAS, Jonathan devoted innumerable hours of his time, talents, and energy toward the
24 betterment of his community and state as evidenced dramatically by his commitment to the
25 Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, the Gwinnett Republican Party, and other civic, social, and
26 political organizations; and

27 WHEREAS, he had a love for photography and was the semi-official photographer of many
28 Georgia civic and political groups; and

29 WHEREAS, one of his greatest and most lasting achievements was his mentorship of high
30 school and college students interested in politics, devoting countless hours developing
31 meaningful relationships with those desiring to be future leaders, helping them understand
32 the current role of politics and politicians; and

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

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

39 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Jonathan Blair Richards will long be
40 remembered for his love of family and friendship, commitment to public service, and
41 passionate advocacy for Georgia's young people and will be missed by all who had the great
42 fortune of knowing him.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Jonathan Blair Richards
45 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his 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 Jonathan Blair Richards.