

House Resolution 806

By: Representative Ealum of the 153rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Jimmie Gardner; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, after years and years of filing appeals that barely drew a response, United States
3 District Court Judge Joseph R. Goodwin ordered on March 25, 2016, that Jimmie Gardner's
4 conviction on charges of sexual assault and robbery be vacated; and

5 WHEREAS, based on the fact that evidence used to convict him has been proven false,
6 Jimmie Gardner walked out of West Virginia's Mount Olive Correctional Complex on
7 April 1, 2016, and returned to Southwest Georgia and a loving family for the first time in 27
8 years; and

9 WHEREAS, before his conviction, he was an elite baseball player who was drafted right out
10 of Tampa Bay Technical High School in 1984 by the Chicago Cubs; and

11 WHEREAS, despite a 113-year sentence that denied him the opportunity to live the prime
12 years of his life as a free man, Jimmie Gardner said that at no time in those 27 years had he
13 ever thought of giving up; and

14 WHEREAS, during his time in prison, he maintained his health, dignity, ethics, and morals
15 and did not allow himself to dwell on anything negative, but to keep his mind on his
16 objective, which was to regain his liberty; and

17 WHEREAS, Jimmie Gardner is enjoying his freedom with his family and talking to youth
18 groups and others about his ordeal, doing everything he can to be a positive influence in the
19 community; and

20 WHEREAS, Jimmie Gardner possesses the vast wisdom which only comes through
21 experience and the strength of character which is achieved through overcoming the many
22 challenges of life; and

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the unyielding faith and perseverance of
24 this extraordinary individual be appropriately recognized.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize and commend Jimmie Gardner for never giving up on
27 himself during this difficult time and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued
28 health and happiness.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
31 Jimmie Gardner.