House Resolution 429
By: Representatives Williams of the 168th, Smyre of the 135th, Bennett of the 94th, and Hugley of the 136th

A RESOLUTION

1. Commending and recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Eleven Black Men of Liberty County, Inc.; and for other purposes.

2. WHEREAS, Eleven Black Men of Liberty County, Inc., accepted the challenge of working with 16 young ninth grade men (transcenders) to assist in preparing them for a more productive future; and

3. WHEREAS, in 1991, this pilot program was introduced to show the necessity of taking full advantage of academic opportunity and to make the transcenders fully aware of their responsibilities to their community and country because it is important for young men to know that it is good to have lofty ambitions and aspirations of success; and

4. WHEREAS, eight of the 16 initial transcenders finished the program, six entered college, and two entered the military; and

5. WHEREAS, in 1996, a second group of transcenders was selected from middle school students, and of the 20 young men, 14 completed the program, six entered college, three entered the military, and four are gainfully employed; two young men were added by special request, and one is a graduate from Albany State University and the other completed Savannah Technical College and joined the United States Navy; and

6. WHEREAS, in 2003, the third group of transcenders was selected, and these four young men completed the program in 2009; two of them enrolled at Fort Valley State University, and one enrolled at Armstrong Atlantic State University; and

7. WHEREAS, in 2005, three additional transcenders were selected to the program; one new transcender was selected in 2006, and another was selected in 2008; and
WHEREAS, in 2010, two additional transcenders were selected to the program; one is currently a sophomore at Georgia Southern University, and the other is gainfully employed, with plans to enter college; and

WHEREAS, between 2011 and 2014, several transcenders graduated from high school and college, and one entered the United States Navy; in 2016, one new transcender was selected into the program, bringing the total number of transcenders to nine in grades eight through 12; and

WHEREAS, two transcenders graduated from high school in 2017; one enrolled at Valdosta State University, and the other is in the work force; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of Eleven Black Men of Liberty County, Inc., are that, by the end of their senior year of high school, transcenders will be well-rounded and prepared to enter the college, university, or technical college of their choice, and that, if advanced education is not their immediate desire, they will be adequately prepared to enter the military or job market with marketable skills such as articulation, a strong work ethic, commitment, and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are ten transcenders enrolled; five of them are juniors, one is a sophomore, and four of them are in middle school; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that Eleven Black Men of Liberty County, Inc., be commended and recognized for helping young men prepare for life after high school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body commend and recognize Eleven Black Men of Liberty County, Inc., upon the grand occasion of its 25th anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Eleven Black Men of Liberty County, Inc.