

## House Resolution 615

By: Representatives Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Glanton of the 75<sup>th</sup>, Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Thomas Carlton Lewis on his retirement from Georgia State University; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis was born in Union Point, Georgia, and learned from his  
4 mother, Eleanor, and father, Carlton Lewis, the importance of public service; and

5 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his long association with government and politics  
6 as a college student who interned in Washington, D.C., for the late Senator Richard Russell;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, following graduation from Georgia Southern University in 1973, he embarked  
9 on a professional career that included field work on the campaign of presidential candidate  
10 Jimmy Carter; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his career in state government as Executive  
12 Director of the Georgia Franchise Practices Commission from 1974 to 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, from 1978 to 1983, he served as Executive Vice President of the Bartow County  
14 Chamber of Commerce; and

15 WHEREAS, during his time with the Chamber of Commerce, he met and began a lifelong  
16 friendship with a state legislator from Cartersville, Joe Frank Harris, and his wife, Elizabeth;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis would join the gubernatorial campaign of Joe Frank  
19 Harris serving as one of his most trusted advisors, joining the Governor's Administration in  
20 1983 as Executive Assistant, and serving as Chief of Staff from 1986 to 1991; and

21 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his career with Georgia State University in 1991  
22 representing the university in the local, state, and federal arenas advancing to Senior Vice  
23 President for External Affairs and Senior Advisor to the President; and

24 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis has walked the halls of this Capitol for over 40 years,  
25 the last 28 years advocating for students, faculty, and staff at Georgia State University and  
26 the entire higher education community; and

27 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis has served under seven governors, six chancellors, and  
28 four university presidents, and is considered the "Dean" of higher education advocates; and

29 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis is an alum of Leadership Georgia and serves on the  
30 Board of Directors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Century Bank of Georgia, the  
31 Rollins Child Development Center, and Zell Miller Institute, and serves as Chairman of the  
32 State Charter School Commission; and

33 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis is retiring from Georgia State University to enjoy life  
34 in Bartow County with Patty, his beautiful wife of 45 years; his three children, Wes, Ellen,  
35 and Shannon, and their families; and especially, his five grandchildren, Weslie, Leighton,  
36 Will, Nate, and Jacks.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 members of this body commend Thomas Carlton Lewis for his extraordinary career in public  
39 service and thank him for his many years of service to the University System of Georgia.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
42 Thomas Carlton Lewis.