

## House Resolution 1411

By: Representatives Gaines of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Wiedower of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Frye of the 118<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and legacy of Jeannette Pickering Rankin, recognizing the lasting  
2 contributions that she made in empowering women to seek opportunities in the classroom  
3 and in public office, and recognizing June 11, 2020, as Jeannette Rankin Day in Georgia; and  
4 for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Jeannette Rankin was born June 11, 1880, in Missoula, Montana, as the  
6 daughter of a rancher and a school teacher, eventually earning her degree in biology from the  
7 University of Montana; and

8 WHEREAS, Rankin became a vocal advocate for the women's suffrage movement, helping  
9 to lobby for constitutional amendments to secure women's voting rights in the states of  
10 Washington and Montana; and

11 WHEREAS, she pushed her activism onto the national stage by becoming the first woman  
12 elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1916, going on to introduce  
13 groundbreaking legislation that included the creation of the Committee on Women's  
14 Suffrage, a critical step in the passing of the 19th Amendment; and

15 WHEREAS, after finishing her first term in Congress, Rankin founded the Georgia Peace  
16 Society and went on to lobby for pacifist organizations such as the National Council for the  
17 Prevention of War and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and

18 WHEREAS, following her death in 1973, Rankin's friends and co-workers established the  
19 Jeannette Rankin Foundation using her estate in Watkinsville, Georgia, to carry on her legacy  
20 of female empowerment, offering scholarships to low-income women earning their  
21 postsecondary education; and

22 WHEREAS, since giving its first scholarship in 1978, the Jeannette Rankin Women's  
23 Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$3 million in aid to over 1,000 women, helping  
24 them to pursue their education despite financial barriers.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body recognize June 11, 2020, as Jeannette Rankin Day, acknowledging  
27 the great strides in women's rights that were made because of her actions and the tremendous  
28 advances that will continue to be made in her memory.

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 Karen  
31 Sterk.