

## House Resolution 487

By: Representatives Leverett of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Dickey of the 140<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Representative Thomas Allen McCall; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the existence of great societal institutions is on rare occasions intersected by the  
3 presence and participation of great men; and
- 4 WHEREAS, when these rare and blessed events occur, it is incumbent on such institutions  
5 to recognize and memorialize the profound impact of these rare and treasured souls; and
- 6 WHEREAS, for the great institution of the Georgia House of Representatives, Representative  
7 Thomas Allen McCall is one such rare and treasured soul who has led a life of devoted  
8 public service to his local community and the State of Georgia; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Representative McCall was born on February 14, 1956, to Dillard and  
10 Katherine McCall; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he grew up on a farm in Elbert County and learned very early the value of hard  
12 work and the inestimable value of common sense; and

13 WHEREAS, after graduating from Elbert County High School, Representative McCall  
14 continued his studies at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, receiving  
15 an agriculture degree, and then graduated from the University of Georgia, receiving a  
16 bachelor's degree in agronomy with a focus on animal science; and

17 WHEREAS, while in college, Representative McCall met the love of his life, Jane Gaines  
18 McCall; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative McCall and Jane married on July 11, 1982, and returned to  
20 Elbert County, where they made their home and operated their grain and livestock farm,  
21 Square Lake Farms, the same land that had been worked by Representative McCall's father;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, despite the numerous additions and renovations that have been made to their  
24 home over the years (many by Representative McCall's own hand), he and Jane still live in  
25 the same home they established in 1982; and

26 WHEREAS, upon returning home, Representative McCall began a long tradition of serving  
27 his community; and

28 WHEREAS, Representative McCall began his record of service to his community by  
29 becoming active in the Georgia Farm Bureau; and

30 WHEREAS, Representative McCall first served the Georgia Farm Bureau in 1982 when he  
31 and Jane were state young farmer and rancher chairs; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1984, Representative McCall won a seat on the Georgia Farm Bureau Board  
33 of Directors, representing the organization's 2nd District, and Representative McCall  
34 continued to serve in that capacity until 1996; and

35 WHEREAS, Representative McCall continued his family's tradition of public service by  
36 serving in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1994 until 2020, much as his  
37 grandfather, Thomas Francis "Bud" Kelley, served in the Georgia House of Representatives  
38 from 1933 to 1937 and in the Georgia Senate from 1939 to 1941; and

39 WHEREAS, over the years, Representative McCall very ably served the citizens of Elbert,  
40 Oglethorpe, and Lincoln counties, as well as portions of Madison, Wilkes, and Columbia  
41 counties; and

42 WHEREAS, Representative McCall distinguished himself in the Georgia House of  
43 Representatives through the force and clarity of his intellect and profound common sense,  
44 which always cut through ivory tower theories as to the real-life impact proposed legislation  
45 would have on the citizens of his district in their everyday lives; and

46 WHEREAS, Representative McCall displayed his strong leadership capabilities in the role  
47 of chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, a role in which he served  
48 for many years; and

49 WHEREAS, Representative McCall also lent his skills and counsel as a member of numerous  
50 other committees, including the Natural Resources and Environment Committee, the  
51 Transportation Committee, and the Game, Fish, and Parks Committee; and

52 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Georgia House of Representatives, Representative  
53 McCall received numerous achievement and distinguished service awards from various  
54 groups for his dedication to agriculture and natural resources, including the Georgia  
55 Agricultural Hall of Fame, the 4-H Green Jacket Award, the Distinguished Service Award  
56 from the Georgia Poultry Federation, the Legislator of the Year Award from many  
57 organizations throughout Georgia, and the National Honorary American Future Farmers of  
58 America Degree; and

59 WHEREAS, during his service in the Georgia House of Representatives, he was often heard  
60 to comment that the Georgia Senate was appropriately located "on the backside of the  
61 capitol"; and

62 WHEREAS, to the profound disappointment and dismay of the citizens of House District 33  
63 and the members of the Georgia General Assembly, Representative McCall decided to retire  
64 from the Georgia House of Representatives in 2020; and

65 WHEREAS, in recognition of his long service to the agricultural community of this state,  
66 Representative McCall recently was elected as president of the Georgia Farm Bureau, and  
67 he continues to serve the citizens of Georgia in that capacity; and

68 WHEREAS, despite a distinguished career as a farmer and public servant, Representative  
69 McCall's greatest joy is his family; and

70 WHEREAS, Representative McCall and Jane are the proud parents of three children: Bud,  
71 Al, and Katie; and

72 WHEREAS, their son, Al, is married to Rachel; Al and Rachel have two sons, Winn and  
73 Wilkes, and Al serves as vice president of development for Athens Technical College as well  
74 as director of the Athens Tech Elberton Campus; and

75 WHEREAS, their daughter, Katie, studied early childhood education with an emphasis on  
76 special education, leading her to begin the Friends Helping Friends organization in honor of  
77 the memory of her brother, Bud, who sadly passed away in 2000; Katie is married to Bristol  
78 Archer and is an instructor at Athens Tech; and

79 WHEREAS, although Representative McCall is gratified by the success he has enjoyed in  
80 his farming and political endeavors, he has through all of these accomplishments and  
81 accolades maintained a steadfast sense of humility and a down-to-earth attitude, which is  
82 immediately apparent to everyone he meets - and he never meets a stranger; and

83 WHEREAS, such a distinguished career of public service has been of immense benefit to the  
84 State of Georgia and will continue to bestow blessings on the State of Georgia, the Georgia  
85 House of Representatives, and the members of that body who have had the pleasure to know  
86 Representative McCall.

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
88 the members of this body express their profound sense of appreciation and gratefulness to  
89 Representative Thomas Allen McCall for his many years of dedicated public service and  
90 lasting contributions to the quality of life of all Georgians.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
92 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
93 Representative Thomas Allen McCall.