

House Resolution 1768

By: Representatives Silcox of the 53rd, Lumsden of the 12th, Anderson of the 10th, and Hong of the 103rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending George "Coach" Gardner; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, George "Coach" Gardner founded the Georgia Football Officials Association
3 (GFOA) in 1926 in Atlanta, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, GFOA is the oldest and one of the largest high school football official
5 associations in the state of Georgia; and
- 6 WHEREAS, GFOA is an approved member of the Georgia High School Association; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Coach Gardner graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in General
8 Engineering, and played football at the school; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he was elected team captain in 1924, and his name is included in the Georgia
10 Tech Ring of Honor; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Coach Gardner was an active football official in the SEC from 1932 until 1948,
12 where he officiated the Sugar Bowl three times and the Rose Bowl once; and

13 WHEREAS, he served as the SEC Supervisor of Officials from 1948 until 1970; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1986, Coach Gardner became the fourth football official to be inducted in the
15 National Football Hall of Fame; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1992, Coach Gardner became the first official from any sport to be inducted
17 into the National Federation of High Schools Sports Hall of Fame; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Gardner developed the first football officials' mechanics manual in 1933,
19 becoming known as the "Father of Football Officiating"; and

20 WHEREAS, many of these mechanics manuals are still in use by NFL, NCAA and high
21 school football officials; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper the outstanding achievements and remarkable
23 contributions Coach Gardner has made to the sport of football be appropriately recognized.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body recognize George "Coach" Gardner for a lifetime of dedication to
26 football and commend him for serving as an inspiration to athletes throughout the State of
27 Georgia.

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