

House Resolution 921

By: Representative Dukes of the 154th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Lionel "Little Train" James; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Lionel "Little Train" James on February 25, 2022; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Lionel was born on May 25, 1962, in Putney, Georgia, a beloved son of Joe and
5 Cherrine James; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Lionel was always the toughest, fastest, wittiest, most competitive, and most
7 athletic player on any team in which he participated, and he took his talents to Auburn
8 University to play football, where he earned the nickname of "Little Train," a name
9 synonymous with his physicality and build; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1985, he set an NFL record in all-purpose yards (2,535) and led the San
11 Diego Chargers in rushing, receiving, and kickoff and punt return yards that season; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Lionel holds several spots in the Chargers franchise record books, including
13 third in punt returns (124), fourth in punt return yards (1,193), and seventh in kickoff return
14 yards (2,094), and is tied for fourth in punt return touchdowns (2); and

15 WHEREAS, in 2000, Lionel was voted one of the Chargers' 40 all-time favorites at the
16 franchise's fortieth anniversary and was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in
17 2006; and

18 WHEREAS, having earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Auburn during the off
19 season, Lionel was given the opportunity to teach mathematics and coach football at his alma
20 mater Dougherty High School before ending his teaching career with Hoover City Schools
21 in Alabama; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Dr. Kesha Mallory James, and
23 was blessed with three remarkable children, Lionel II, Kasey, and Janet; and two wonderful
24 grandchildren, Jacob and Braxton; and

25 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
26 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
27 family and friends were admired by others; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
29 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
30 made this world a better place in which to live; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Lionel will long be remembered for his
32 love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
33 fortune of knowing him.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Lionel "Little Train" James
36 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 family of Lionel "Little Train" James.