

## House Resolution 6EX

By: Representatives Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Cheokas of the 151<sup>st</sup>, Beverly of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, and Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Rosalynn Carter; 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 Mrs. Rosalynn Carter on November 19, 2023; and
- 4 WHEREAS, born on August 18, 1927, in Plains, Georgia, as Eleanor Rosalynn Smith, she  
5 was the beloved daughter of Wilburn and Frances Smith; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she excelled academically, becoming valedictorian of her senior class at Plains  
7 High School, and continued her education at Georgia Southwestern College, where she met  
8 and fell in love with her future husband, Jimmy Carter; and
- 9 WHEREAS, her life took on a new dimension when Jimmy was elected as the Governor of  
10 Georgia in 1971, and she navigated the challenges of being the First Lady of Georgia with  
11 grace and commitment to causes close to her heart, such as mental health awareness and  
12 prison reform; and

13 WHEREAS, by the time Jimmy ran for president in 1976, Rosalynn's new-found experience  
14 and confidence in delivering speeches, advocating for causes, and interacting with legislators  
15 distinguished her as a trailblazer and enabled her to continue fighting for reform; and

16 WHEREAS, just five weeks after Inauguration Day, the President's Commission on Mental  
17 Health was established with Rosalynn serving as honorary chairperson, which later  
18 recommended a sweeping new Mental Health Systems Act that called for more community  
19 centers and additional access to mental health services; and

20 WHEREAS, as the First Lady of the United States, Rosalynn continuously broke new and  
21 vital ground by actively participating in cabinet meetings and National Security Council  
22 briefings, addressing Congress on vital issues, and becoming the second-ever first lady to  
23 testify before Congress when she spoke in defense of her commission's Act; and

24 WHEREAS, her unwavering commitment to public service extended into her post-White  
25 House years, where she co-founded the Carter Center in 1982 alongside her husband to  
26 address global issues such as disease prevention, democracy-building, and conflict  
27 resolution; and

28 WHEREAS, Rosalynn's dedication to helping her community and the underprivileged of the  
29 world was evident in the countless hours she spent supporting the Americus-based  
30 homebuilding organization Habitat for Humanity, for which she was an active participant in  
31 building homes for families across the globe; and

32 WHEREAS, her commitment to service continued with the establishment of the Rosalynn  
33 Carter Institute for Caregiving at Georgia Southwestern State University in 1987, which

34 provides training and research on issues related to mental illness and long-term disabilities;  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, in the face of health challenges, Rosalynn remained steadfast in her devotion  
37 to her family and her country, leaving behind a legacy of advocacy, resilience, and  
38 partnership that has left an indelible mark on the nation and the world.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
40 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Rosalynn Carter and  
41 express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
44 family of Mrs. Rosalynn Carter.