

## House Resolution 227

By: Representatives Cooper of the 45<sup>th</sup>, Seabaugh of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Parsons of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Carson of the 46<sup>th</sup>, and Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Joseph Gavalis; 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 Joseph Gavalis; and
- 4 WHEREAS, during his distinguished career as a federal agent, Joseph Gavalis fought against  
5 organized crime and labor racketeering, taking on dangerous mobsters and corrupt labor  
6 bosses to protect workers striving to make a living; and
- 7 WHEREAS, after retiring from federal law enforcement, he and his wife, Susan, settled in  
8 Cobb County, Georgia, where he served as a leader and president of his homeowner's  
9 association, resolving neighbors' concerns, navigating local government, and acting as a  
10 liaison with local police; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Joseph Gavalis volunteered extensively with the Cobb County government,  
12 serving on the Cobb Neighborhood Safety Commission and as a founding member of the  
13 Cobb County Elder Abuse Task Force, where he collaborated with officials and legislators  
14 to combat elder abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, as founder of the North Georgia Elder Abuse Task Force, he worked with local  
16 and federal law enforcement across the region, educated groups about scams targeting the  
17 elderly, and helped resolve local issues related to elder abuse; and

18 WHEREAS, over 10 years, he conducted workshops for approximately 10,000 seniors,  
19 teaching them about elder abuse prevention and distributing scent kits to help locate  
20 dementia sufferers before harm could occur; and

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

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

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Joseph Gavalis will long be remembered  
28 for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great  
29 fortune of knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Joseph Gavalis and express  
32 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
35 family of Joseph Gavalis.