

House Resolution 506

By: Representative Meeks of the 178<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Cohen's of Alma on its 100th anniversary; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Cohen's of Alma, a cornerstone of the Alma and Bacon County community,  
4 celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, representing a century of dedication to quality  
5 service and community engagement; and

6 WHEREAS, the legacy of Cohen's of Alma began with Nathan Cohen, who, at the age of 13,  
7 immigrated to the United States from a small village on the border of Russia and Poland in  
8 1913, ultimately settling in Nicholls, Georgia, with his older half-brothers, Julius "Jake" and  
9 William Cohen; and

10 WHEREAS, with the support of his brothers, Nathan overcame language barriers and  
11 completed his education before establishing his first business venture as a traveling peddler  
12 with a Belgian horse named "Babe" and a wagon filled with goods needed by rural families,  
13 laying the foundation for what would become Cohen's of Alma; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1924, after years of hard work, Nathan purchased Sandy Mercer's general  
15 store on Dixon Street in Alma, restocked it with apparel, and officially opened Cohen's of  
16 Alma on April 4; and

17 WHEREAS, his son, Jerald, graduated from the University of Georgia, served in the United  
18 States Army during the Korean War, and joined the family business in 1952 before assuming  
19 management in 1957, overseeing the store's continued growth and success; and

20 WHEREAS, under Jerald's leadership, Cohen's expanded in 1967 with the purchase of the  
21 Butler Supply location next door, increasing the store size by 3,000 square feet and  
22 introducing the "Roundtable Shop," which specialized in name-brand apparel for work,  
23 hunting, and formal wear; and

24 WHEREAS, upon Jerald's retirement in 1997, the late Wayne Golden was hired as store  
25 manager, and through the efforts of Mark Cohen, Jerald's oldest son, and his wife, Laure, the  
26 store was once again expanded by an additional 2,000 square feet; and

27 WHEREAS, today, Cohen's of Alma remains one of the oldest single-family-owned  
28 businesses in the State of Georgia, continuing to serve as a vital part of the Alma-Bacon  
29 County community while maintaining a legacy of integrity, service, and economic  
30 contribution to South Georgia; and

31 WHEREAS, the Cohen family has given back to the community in countless ways, ensuring  
32 that no local prom, homecoming, or wedding is complete without a visit to Cohen's and  
33 stocking top-quality products that have remained a hallmark of the business for generations.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body recognize Cohen's of Alma on its 100th anniversary, commend the  
36 Cohen family for their century of dedication to the Alma-Bacon County community, and  
37 extend best wishes for continued success.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
40 Cohen's of Alma.