

House Resolution 514

By: Representative Powell of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Bobby C. Pate; 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 Bobby C. Pate on September 28, 2024; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Bobby C. Pate was born on November 29, 1936, in Jacksonville, Florida, a
5 beloved son of Richard Pate and Ada Dukes Pate Jeffries; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was a gifted athlete who played college football at South Georgia State
7 College under then-head coach Bobby Bowden before transferring to Presbyterian College,
8 where he was twice named Player of the Year and South Carolina Back of the Year; and
- 9 WHEREAS, his athletic talent earned him selection in both the 1960 NFL Draft by the San
10 Francisco 49ers and the 1960 American Football League Draft by the Boston Patriots; and
- 11 WHEREAS, following his playing career, he dedicated himself to coaching, beginning as an
12 assistant football coach and head track coach at Hart County High School from 1963 to 1965
13 before serving as head coach and athletic director at Toccoa High School, Norcross High
14 School, and Cherokee High School between 1965 and 1974; and

15 WHEREAS, he transitioned into college coaching as an assistant coach at Western Carolina
16 University from 1974 to 1979 and later earned his first collegiate head coaching position at
17 the University of West Georgia, where he led the team to an NCAA Division III National
18 Championship in 1982; and

19 WHEREAS, he later returned to Hart County in the mid-1980s to serve as head coach of the
20 Hart County Bulldogs, leading and mentoring young athletes for several years before his
21 retirement; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Donna, with whom he shared
23 63 wonderful years, and the two were blessed with three remarkable children, Elliott, Kathee,
24 and Lonn; and

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Bobby C. Pate will long be remembered
26 for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
27 fortune of knowing him.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Bobby C. Pate and express
30 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 family of Bobby C. Pate.