

House Resolution 614

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Davis of the 87th, and Schofield of the 63rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Leicester "Bill" Allen; 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 Leicester "Bill" Allen; and
- 4 WHEREAS, after graduating from Wayne State University, Bill began his career as a teacher
5 in the Detroit Public School System, made his first real estate investment, and later started
6 a daycare business with his wife, Mattie, which expanded to 14 locations; and
- 7 WHEREAS, by 1984, Bill and Mattie Allen extended their business to K-12th grade private
8 schools at the request of parents and students, graduating their first high school class in 1988
9 and converting four schools into charter schools by 1994; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1999, the Allens expanded their school and real estate holdings across the
11 United States, serving over 12,000 students at 30 locations in more than 20 cities and seven
12 states through both their for-profit and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in the pursuit of supporting minority- and women-owned businesses, the Allens
14 created the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute (AEI) at Camp Exposure, a 150-acre complex in

15 Stonecrest, Georgia, featuring a state-of-the-art conference center, private hotel/dormitory,
16 and a five-story antebellum mansion/conference center named Miss Rebecca's House; and

17 WHEREAS, since its inception in 2001, AEI has educated over 10,000 K-12 students and
18 young adult entrepreneurs from across the globe, including local K-12 school groups, over
19 30 Historical Black Colleges & Universities, and entrepreneurs from more than 20 African
20 countries; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2017, as an extension of the AEI, the Allens established the AEI StartUp
22 Factory, a co-working and event space adjacent to the Mall at Stonecrest; and

23 WHEREAS, Leicester "Bill" Allen possessed the vast wisdom which only comes through
24 experience and the strength of character which is achieved by overcoming the many
25 challenges of life; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Leicester "Bill" Allen will long be
27 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
28 had the great fortune of knowing him.

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

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 family of Leicester "Bill" Allen.