

House Resolution 621

By: Representatives Howard of the 129th, Heffner of the 130th, Prince of the 132nd, and Myles of the 126th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club on its 60th Cotillion; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club was founded in 1963 when six female
4 students at Augustus R. Johnson Junior High School approached their science teacher, Mrs.
5 Rosa Tarver Beard, to sponsor them in developing into distinguished young women; and

6 WHEREAS, a master educator and community leader, Mrs. Rosa Tarver Beard dedicated 41
7 years to education, beginning her career at Bettis Academy and Junior College in Trenton,
8 South Carolina, before continuing in Augusta at C. T. Walker Elementary, A. R. Johnson
9 Junior High School, and T. W. Josey High School; and

10 WHEREAS, the Augusta Adult Society was created to present the first Cotillion, and on
11 February 24, 1965, nine debutantes and six sub-debutantes were formally introduced to
12 society at the National Guard Armory; and

13 WHEREAS, the Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club formalized its identity in the 1970s, adopting
14 the name "The Debutante Club," the colors navy and white, and its slogan, "As a debutante,
15 I will be a phantom of the night, who walks in beauty like the night"; and

16 WHEREAS, as Augusta's high schools integrated in the 1970s, the club expanded its reach,
17 and by the 1980s and 1990s, membership grew exponentially, culminating in a record 72
18 debutantes in 1988; and

19 WHEREAS, the organization has since upheld a tradition of excellence, establishing key
20 honors such as "Miss Cotillion" in 1970, "Miss Cooperative" in 1986, "Founder's Award" in
21 1993, and "Mr. Escort" in 1993; and

22 WHEREAS, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, the organization was incorporated on Mrs.
23 Beard's birthdate, November 22, 2013, and in 2014, her daughter, Reverend Cheryl Beard,
24 became CEO; and

25 WHEREAS, the club continues to empower young Black men and women through
26 leadership development, social and cultural enrichment, civic engagement, and service
27 opportunities, making it abundantly fitting and proper that it be appropriately honored during
28 this special time.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize and commend the Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club upon
31 its 60th Cotillion and extend best wishes for continued success.

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 Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club.