

House Resolution 972

By: Representatives Lumsden of the 12th, Dempsey of the 13th, and Barton of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the 2025 Awards of Honor recipient, Stephanie Dean; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Stephanie was born and raised in Rome, Georgia, received her bachelor's degree
4 in education from Jackson State University where she attended on a soccer scholarship, and
5 received her master's degree in educational leadership from Columbus State University; and

6 WHEREAS, Stephanie is Co-Founder & CEO of Mike Dean Athletics (MDA); and

7 WHEREAS, Stephanie and her husband, Mike Dean, serve about 400 student athletes at their
8 gym, MDA Sports Academy located in Rome; and

9 WHEREAS, prior to starting MDA, Stephanie was the former Assistant Principal at Main
10 Elementary where she made her mark raising student achievement, improving teacher
11 retention, streamlining budgets, and decreasing student disciplinary issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Stephanie was named the Rome City Schools District Teacher of the Year in
13 2019, and West Central Elementary's teacher of the Year in 2018.

14 WHEREAS, she also served as a Rome City Schools professional development instructor
15 and facilitator for several years; and

16 WHEREAS, Stephanie served as the Director of Youth at New and Living Way Church for
17 13 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Stephanie serves the community through her volunteerism with Hospitality
19 House, Good Neighbor Ministries, The Boys and Girls Club, Floyd County Teen Plus
20 Center, Bloodline Believers REACH Ministries, United Way, Backpack Buddies, Murphy
21 Harpst, Habitat for Humanity, Extra Special People, Restoration Rome, Keep Rome
22 Beautiful, and Youth College and Career Expo; and

23 WHEREAS, Stephanie also serves the community through her business, MDA Sports
24 Academy by collecting new and gently worn shoes for Soles Desire Shoe Drive, the MDA
25 Thanksgiving Community Feast, Winter School Daze, Blessing Bags, Luv Michael, MDA
26 Eats Fund, Open Gym Nights, Georgia Milestones Bootcamp and MDA Scholarship Fund.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize Stephanie Dean for her outstanding dedication to the
29 community, commend her as a recipient of the 2025 Heart of the Community Awards Honor
30 Recipient, and extend the most sincere best wishes for continued success.

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
33 Stephanie Dean.