

House Resolution 1013

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th, Dickey of the 134th, Hawkins of the 27th, Dubnik of the 29th, Meeks of the 178th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Abit Massey; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Abit Massey lived a life of distinction defined by exemplary service to his state,
3 devotion to his community, and a steadfast commitment to education, agriculture, and civic
4 leadership; and
- 5 WHEREAS, starting from his earliest visits to the Georgia State Capitol in the 1940s, he
6 developed a lifelong connection to Georgia's public life that led him to serve as executive
7 secretary to Attorney General Gene Cook and to be appointed by Governor-Elect Ernest
8 Vandiver as director of the Department of Commerce, during which time he created the
9 state's first Tourist Division as well as the state's first welcome station in Screven
10 County—the oldest station still operational in the United States; and
- 11 WHEREAS, his career became most closely tied to Georgia agriculture through his
12 leadership of the Georgia Poultry Federation, where he guided the industry's growth with
13 vision and dedication, and he continued to serve full-time as president emeritus thereafter;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, his passion for education and the University of Georgia (UGA) was evident in
16 his service as president of the UGA Alumni Association, as a trustee of the UGA Foundation,
17 and as a leader in preserving historic Four Towers and establishing the Veterinary Medicine
18 Experiment Station; and

19 WHEREAS, his many honors included the UGA Distinguished Alumni Merit Award, the
20 Blue Key Service Award, the inaugural Medallion of Honor from the College of Agricultural
21 and Environmental Sciences, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences Appreciation
22 Award, the Distinguished Service Award from the College of Veterinary Medicine, and
23 induction into the Georgia Agricultural Hall of Fame; and

24 WHEREAS, he was further honored through the creation of the annual Abit Massey Lecture
25 by the Georgia Society of Association Executives, and he received the organization's
26 President's Award for his work to protect nonprofit volunteers under Georgia law; and

27 WHEREAS, as additional testament to his influence and service, Abit Massey met seven
28 presidents of the United States, counted the late President Jimmy Carter among his friends,
29 and championed Georgia Women of Achievement as the first man to serve on its Board of
30 Trustees, the only man to serve as president, and the first person chosen as a trustee for life;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Kayanne, and together they built
33 a life in Gainesville, Georgia, raising their two children, Lewis and Camille, and later
34 enjoying the blessings of four grandchildren, Chandler, Mary Cameryn, Christian, and Lucia,
35 and of family members Amy and Gillie; and

36 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Abit Massey will long be remembered for
37 his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
38 fortune of knowing him.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Abit Massey and express
41 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
44 family of Abit Massey.