

House Resolution 1465

By: Representatives Park of the 107th, Jones of the 47th, Kelley of the 16th, Holly of the 116th, and Holland of the 54th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the life and enduring legacy of Alexandra "Alex" Marie Patafio
2 for her indelible contributions to the Georgia legal community while a student at the Georgia
3 State University College of Law; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Alexandra Marie Patafio, affectionately known as Alex, enrolled in the Georgia
5 State University College of Law in August 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, in a class of 215, Alex instantly became a standout as a natural born leader and
7 trailblazer; and

8 WHEREAS, to her classmates, Alex was known for her charisma and contagious spirit,
9 having adopted the motto "Do It Scared" because she knew any fears she had mattered less
10 than the impact she could have on someone in need; and

11 WHEREAS, Alex was known to her professors as that rare type of student who could and
12 did lead the charge to reinvigorate a community and as someone who had an unrelenting
13 desire to not only know the law, but to seek justice; and

14 WHEREAS, these characteristics led her to become active with various initiatives offered
15 by the College of Law including its Health Legal Partnership (HeLP) Clinic and the
16 Alternative Spring Break pro bono program coordinated by its Center for Access to Justice;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, in recognition of her fearless advocacy on behalf of children and families
19 receiving care at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Alex was awarded the HeLP Legal
20 Services Clinic Award; and

21 WHEREAS, as a student leader in the Center for Access to Justice Alternative Spring Break
22 program, Alex was instrumental in helping find resources for more than 1,000 tenants facing
23 eviction, earning high praise and acclaim from the White House and the United States
24 Department of Justice; and

25 WHEREAS, through her work in pro bono projects Alex played a vital role in helping secure
26 the dismissal of criminal charges on behalf of a wrongfully accused individual who had spent
27 months incarcerated, and her efforts were commended by the Superior Court of DeKalb
28 County and featured on WSB-TV news; and

29 WHEREAS, on October 7, 2022, two months after her 30th birthday, and just seven months
30 shy of earning her law degree, her short life came to a catastrophic end as a result of one bad
31 decision of a drunk driver; and

32 WHEREAS, in life, Alex infused every program she participated in at the Georgia State
33 University College of Law with her boundless energy and impassioned devotion to the values
34 of equal justice for all; and

35 WHEREAS, despite this heartrending loss, her memory lives on through the "Alex Patafio
36 Public Interest Leadership Award," given to students who demonstrate exceptional promise
37 in the field of public interest law; the "Class of 2023 Alex Patafio Scholarship," established
38 by her graduating class to support future students who desire to become advocates for the
39 overlooked and underserved; and the Alex Patafio Foundation, established to create a world
40 where alcohol related fatalities are nonexistent; and

41 WHEREAS, the Georgia State University College of Law thought it fitting and proper to
42 posthumously award Alex the Juris Doctor degree with the distinction of a Certificate in
43 Public Interest Law and Policy at the Commencement Ceremonies of May 2023.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
45 the members of this body celebrate and honor the memory of Alexandra "Alex" Marie
46 Patafio for the indelible contributions she made to the Georgia legal community, her
47 treasured impact on the Georgia State University College of Law, and her inspiring
48 commitment to access to justice.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
50 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to her
51 parents, Chris and Michelle Patafio; her sister, Michaela Patafio Abdou; the Board of
52 Directors of the Alex Patafio Foundation; and to Courtney L. Anderson, Dean of the Georgia
53 State University College of Law.