

House Resolution 1992

By: Representatives Williamson of the 112<sup>th</sup>, Bonner of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, DeLoach of the 167<sup>th</sup>, Lumsden of the 12<sup>th</sup>, and others

### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life, military service, and civic contributions of Major General George J.  
2 Hearn, Jr. of Monroe, Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Major General George J. Hearn, Jr., of Monroe, rendered distinguished and  
4 honorable service to the State of Georgia and the United States through more than four  
5 decades of military leadership, public service, and civic devotion; and

6 WHEREAS, General Hearn began his military career in 1925 as a private in the Georgia  
7 National Guard's Howitzer Company, 121st Infantry Regiment, in Monroe, rose through the  
8 enlisted ranks, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1932, ultimately attaining the  
9 rank of Major General, the highest rank a Guardsman can achieve; and

10 WHEREAS, during World War II, General Hearn was called to active federal service in the  
11 United States Army, where he served with distinction as an antiaircraft artillery battery,  
12 battalion, and group commander, including command of an antiaircraft artillery group  
13 responsible for the air defense of the Panama Canal Zone, and he was honorably discharged  
14 on March 9, 1946, in the grade of Colonel; and

15 WHEREAS, during the Korean War, General Hearn was again called to active duty, serving  
16 as executive officer of the 108th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, contributing to the air defense  
17 of metropolitan areas in New Jersey and Pennsylvania; and

18 WHEREAS, following his return to state service, he was elevated to brigade commander in  
19 1952 and promoted to brigadier general, and he was federally recognized as a major general  
20 in 1961; and

21 WHEREAS, General Hearn was initially appointed Adjutant General of Georgia by  
22 Governor Herman Talmadge on June 21, 1954, was reappointed by Governor Marvin Griffin,  
23 and later reappointed by Governor Ernest Vandiver, and across his distinguished tenure he  
24 served under five Governors of Georgia-Herman Talmadge, Marvin Griffin, Ernest  
25 Vandiver, Carl Sanders, and Lester Maddox-providing approximately fifteen years of  
26 leadership as Adjutant General and State Director of Civil Defense; and

27 WHEREAS, General Hearn holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Adjutant  
28 General in the history of the State of Georgia, and his tenure was marked by exceptional  
29 leadership, continuity of command, and transformational growth of the Georgia National  
30 Guard; and

31 WHEREAS, as Adjutant General and the senior military officer of the State of Georgia,  
32 General Hearn played a central leadership role in the 1961 reactivation of the Georgia  
33 Military Institute, working in conjunction with Governor Ernest Vandiver to reestablish the  
34 state's officer training pipeline during a period of heightened national security demands; and

35 WHEREAS, under his leadership, the revived Georgia Military Institute began training its  
36 first class in 1961, commissioning new officers beginning in 1962 and continuing a legacy

37 that has produced more than 1,200 second lieutenants who have served in conflicts from  
38 Vietnam through Iraq and Afghanistan; and

39 WHEREAS, the Georgia Military Institute program, now assigned to the 122nd Regional  
40 Training Institute, continues to uphold rigorous academic and physical standards consistent  
41 with its historic reputation as the "West Point of the South," reflecting General Hearn's  
42 enduring impact on officer development in the Georgia National Guard; and

43 WHEREAS, during his tenure, General Hearn strengthened the readiness, professionalism,  
44 and infrastructure of the Georgia National Guard, including the expansion and modernization  
45 of armories across the state; and

46 WHEREAS, on November 10, 1968, the National Guard Armory in Monroe was formally  
47 dedicated in his honor as the Major General George J. Hearn Armory, and Governor Lester  
48 Maddox, in his principal address, commended General Hearn's "spirit" and his constant  
49 dedication to the protection of the freedoms enjoyed by the people of this state, noting that  
50 such character "earns him the gratitude of the people of Georgia"; and

51 WHEREAS, the Georgia National Guard is currently relocating the Monroe Armory and  
52 constructing a new approximately 36,000-square-foot readiness center on approximately 27  
53 acres located at 1245 South Madison Avenue in Monroe, Georgia; and

54 WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that the naming of public military facilities is a  
55 well-established and appropriate exercise of state recognition authority, intended to honor  
56 individuals whose service has materially advanced the mission, readiness, and institutional  
57 legacy of the Georgia National Guard; and

58 WHEREAS, the General Assembly further finds that Major General George J. Hearn, Jr.'s  
59 extraordinary record of wartime service, his historic and longest-serving tenure as Adjutant  
60 General, his leadership in reestablishing the Georgia Military Institute officer training  
61 program, and his lasting contributions to military infrastructure and readiness uniquely  
62 qualify him for such recognition; and

63 WHEREAS, the General Assembly determines that the continued naming of the Monroe  
64 armory facility in his honor will preserve the historical continuity of prior legislative and  
65 executive recognition, reinforce the heritage of the Georgia National Guard, and inspire  
66 future generations of Georgia Guardsmen; and

67 WHEREAS, General Hearn's distinguished career brought him national recognition,  
68 including the award of the Distinguished Service Medal of the National Guard Association  
69 of the United States in 1968 for his outstanding service and contributions to national guard  
70 policy; and

71 WHEREAS, in addition to his military service, General Hearn rendered notable civic and  
72 public service as a former Mayor of Monroe, a member of the Monroe City Council, a  
73 member of the Walton County Hospital Board, a past Georgia Department Commander of  
74 the American Legion, and a long-time Elder and Sunday school teacher at Monroe First  
75 Christian Church; and

76 WHEREAS, General Hearn's life and career reflected the highest ideals of patriotism,  
77 leadership, and selfless service to community, state, and nation; and

78 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of  
79 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized by this body.

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
81 the members of this body honor the life and legacy of Major General George J. Hearn, Jr. and  
82 commend his extraordinary military service in World War II and the Korean War, his historic  
83 leadership as Adjutant General of Georgia, his pivotal role in the reestablishment of the  
84 Georgia Military Institute, and his devoted civic service to Monroe, Walton County, and the  
85 State of Georgia.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based upon the foregoing findings and in recognition  
87 of his enduring contributions to the Georgia National Guard, the members of this body  
88 respectfully urge and recommend that the appropriate authorities designate and name the new  
89 Monroe readiness center located at 1245 South Madison Avenue in Monroe, Georgia, in  
90 honor of Major General George J. Hearn, Jr.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
92 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
93 family of Major General George J. Hearn, Jr., to the Adjutant General of Georgia, and to the  
94 citizens of Walton County.