

House Resolution 2080

By: Representatives Park of the 107th, Frye of the 122nd, Gisler of the 121st, Gaines of the 120th, and Rhodes of the 124th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the ODYSSEY Media Group, the *iliad* Literary-Art
2 Magazine, and David A. Ragsdale for over 23 years of journalistic excellence, student
3 creativity, and outstanding service to the people of Athens, Georgia, and beyond; and for
4 other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the ODYSSEY Media Group was established in 2003 by David A. Ragsdale,
6 whose commitment and dedication resulted in the creation of a student-run news organization
7 that has enriched the lives of countless Athenians; and

8 WHEREAS, the mission of the ODYSSEY Media Group is to inform, entertain, and give
9 voice to the Clarke Central High School community through fair, accurate, and balanced
10 news and commentary; and

11 WHEREAS, the ODYSSEY Media Group's vision is to provide a platform for the Clarke
12 Central High School and Athens-Clarke County communities to voice their concerns, to
13 promote truth and transparency in times of unease, and to deter inaccuracy and the spread of
14 misinformation; and

15 WHEREAS, under the leadership of founder and faculty adviser David A. Ragsdale,
16 alongside countless editors, managers, staffers, and dedicated supporters, the ODYSSEY
17 Media Group has grown to become an exemplary model of convergence media, consistently
18 publishing high-quality content across various digital and print outlets such as their website,
19 newsmagazine, and assorted social media accounts; and

20 WHEREAS, since its inception in 2003, the ODYSSEY Media Group has won hundreds of
21 awards for exceptional journalism, writing, photography, design, and presentation, including
22 top honors from prestigious institutions such as the National Scholastic Press Association,
23 Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Southern Interscholastic Press Association, and
24 Georgia Scholastic Press Association; and

25 WHEREAS, the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine was re-established in 2001 by David A.
26 Ragsdale after several years of dormancy following its initial founding in 1969, whose vision
27 and determination revitalized an essential publication; and

28 WHEREAS, the mission of the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine is to serve as a conduit of
29 expression for creativity and passion for the Clarke Central High School student body, *iliad*
30 staff, and rising ninth graders; and

31 WHEREAS, the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine's vision is to be an inclusive platform for
32 creative voices that represent the diversity of the Clarke Central High School student body
33 while simultaneously providing a venue to develop student leaders and communicators; and

34 WHEREAS, under the leadership of faculty adviser David A. Ragsdale, alongside numerous
35 editorial boards and dedicated supporters, the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine has grown to

36 become a welcoming public forum dedicated to the promotion of creative art, writing, and
37 photography; and

38 WHEREAS, since its re-establishment in 2001, the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine has won
39 hundreds of awards for exceptional art, writing, photography, design, and presentation,
40 including top honors from prestigious institutions such as the National Scholastic Press
41 Association, Columbia Scholastic Press Association, Southern Interscholastic Press
42 Association, and Georgia Scholastic Press Association; and

43 WHEREAS, it is both fitting and proper to honor the extraordinary achievements of both the
44 ODYSSEY Media Group and the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine as well as their founder and
45 faculty adviser, David A. Ragsdale, for their support of student journalism and the creative
46 arts.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
48 the members of this body recognize and commend the ODYSSEY Media Group, the *iliad*
49 Literary-Art Magazine, and David A. Ragsdale for their decades of journalistic excellence,
50 student creativity, and outstanding service to the people of Athens, Georgia, and beyond; for
51 their steadfast commitment to truth, transparency, accountability, and public dialogue; as
52 well as for their unyielding belief in the power of media to positively transform lives and
53 livelihoods.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
55 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to David
56 A. Ragsdale and to the editorial board, staff members, and volunteers of both the ODYSSEY
57 Media Group and the *iliad* Literary-Art Magazine.