

## House Resolution 1574

By: Representatives Clark of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Rhodes of the 124<sup>th</sup>, and Crawford of the 84<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing Saturday, March 23, 2024, as Butler-Baker School Day; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the "Butler-Baker Negro School" was established in September of 1956 in  
3 Eatonton, Georgia, as what was labeled an "equal but separate" school; and
- 4 WHEREAS, in segregated Eatonton, this school was the only school open to black students  
5 in the area; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the school included first through 12th grade; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the Butler-Baker School operated as an equalization school until 1971, when  
8 it was integrated for students up to ninth grade; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in the 90s and early 2000s, the Butler-Baker School housed the Putnam County  
10 Head Start and the Georgia Family Connection Program, along with some adult education  
11 programs; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker, attended and  
13 graduated from the Butler-Baker School as valedictorian in 1961; and

14 WHEREAS, prominent DeKalb County leader, Porter Sanford III, notable for his influence  
15 in making DeKalb County the second most influential African American county in the  
16 United States, attended and graduated from the Butler-Baker School in 1960; and

17 WHEREAS, the Butler-Baker Alumni Project, Inc., purchased the property in October of  
18 2012 and is working diligently to restore and revitalize the site of this historic school and to  
19 establish a museum and community center at the site; and

20 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that efforts to restore and revitalize the site  
21 of this historic school be appropriately recognized.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
23 the members of this body recognize Saturday, March 23, 2024, as Butler-Baker School Day.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
25 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
26 Butler-Baker Alumni Project, Inc.