

House Resolution 1232

By: Representative Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the bicentennial of Early County; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Early County was created in 1818 and was named for Peter Early who served
3 as a member of Congress from Georgia, a judge, a member of the Georgia General
4 Assembly, and as the 28th Governor of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, at the time of its creation, Early County encompassed all of southwest Georgia
6 and covered about 3,770 square miles; and

7 WHEREAS, over time, ten other counties were created from the original boundaries of Early
8 County, reducing it to its current 511.2 square miles; and

9 WHEREAS, the earliest known inhabitants of the area were the Lower Creek Indians who
10 ceded the area to the United States by treaty in 1818 following the removal of most of the
11 Native American populations from Georgia by General Andrew Jackson in 1817; and

12 WHEREAS, the first settlement in the area was a 100 square foot fort named Fort Gaines,
13 after General Edmund Pendleton Gaines; and

14 WHEREAS, Early County is the site of the Kolomoki Mounds, a park preserving major
15 earthworks built by indigenous peoples of the Woodland culture more than 1,700 years ago
16 and is one of the largest mound complexes in the United States and the largest in Georgia,
17 including burial and ceremonial mounds which express the ancient people's cosmology, as
18 the mounds are aligned with the sun at the spring equinox and summer solstice; and

19 WHEREAS, when Baker County was created from Early County in 1825, the citizens of
20 Early County had to establish a new county seat which they placed in a town that is known
21 today as Blakely, which was incorporated in 1870 and was named after Captain Johnston
22 Blakeley who was lost with the crew of the United States sloop-of-war *Wasp*; and

23 WHEREAS, during the Civil War, David S. Johnston's Southern Confederate Navy Yard was
24 established at Saffold on the Chattahoochee River in the southern part of the county and
25 produced one gunboat, the CSS *Chattahoochee*, which was delivered in 1862, although two
26 other gunboats were under construction when the war ended; and

27 WHEREAS, Early County's economy is primarily agricultural with large holdings in peanuts,
28 cotton, beef cattle, and timber; and

29 WHEREAS, Early County has three public schools and one private school with Bainbridge
30 State College holding classes at the high school and Albany Technical College operating a
31 satellite campus in the county; and

32 WHEREAS, Early County is engaging in a one-year celebration of its bicentennial in 2018
33 to reflect on its past, appreciate its present, and set goals for its future; and

34 WHEREAS, Early County is dedicated to the achievement, accomplishment, and moving
35 forward to benefit all of its citizens;

36 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper for the members of this body to recognize and
37 congratulate the citizens of Early County on their achievements and accomplishments as they
38 celebrate Early County's bicentennial.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body recognized and commend the citizens of Early County on the
41 occasion of the bicentennial of Early County and extend to them the most sincere best wishes
42 for continued health and happiness.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Early
45 County and the press and public.