

House Resolution 1328

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Stovall of the 74th, Gilliard of the 162nd, Williams of the 168th, and Stephens of the 164th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Patt Gunn for bringing awareness to the history of slavery and
2 emancipation; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Patt Gunn has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role
4 that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the history and
5 culture of the people of Georgia's coast; and

6 WHEREAS, known as the "memory keeper" of the African American journey from slavery
7 to freedom, Patt has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of her time,
8 talents, and energy toward the betterment of her community, state, and country as evidenced
9 dramatically by her superlative skill and success as a master storyteller; and

10 WHEREAS, Patt has served with honor and distinction as the owner of Underground Tours,
11 LLC, a cultural arts and heritage tour agency in Savannah, Georgia, and co-founded and
12 coordinated the National Slave Dwelling Project Conference in 2014 held in Savannah; and

13 WHEREAS, she writes, produces, and raises funds for her historical reenactments, tours,
14 plays, and musical productions regarding slavery and emancipation; interweaves a capella
15 songs with stories, tambourines, scrub boards, and other percussion instruments; and
16 highlights the linkage of slavery to the art, history, and culture of Gullah Geechee Sea Island
17 as well as the urban communities within the Gullah Geechee corridor, which spans the four
18 states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the northern tip of Florida; and

19 WHEREAS, Patt has performed at various locations and at numerous events throughout the
20 southeast, and her slave narratives and "African American Sheroes" programs have received
21 accolades from audiences throughout the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, in April, 2015, she traveled to Washington, D.C., and had the honor of
23 celebrating the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery by performing in the Rose Garden at

24 the White House and at Ford's Theater, the Lincoln Cottage, and the Lincoln Memorial over
25 the span of a two-week long tour; and

26 WHEREAS, her vision and unyielding commitment to acknowledging and paying homage
27 to the historical African American experience of slavery and emancipation preserves and
28 celebrates the unique heritage of Georgia's coastal communities; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
30 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body recognize and commend Patt Gunn for bringing awareness to the
33 history of slavery and emancipation.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Patt
36 Gunn.