

House Resolution 1340

By: Representative Powell of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Campbellton Lodge #76; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on August 4, 1848, Colonel Thomas Latham, Colonel William Morgan,
3 William F. Devine, Isaac N. Smith, Evans B. Whitley, Robert J. Tuggle, and John Campbell
4 met to discuss the formation of a Masonic Lodge in the Town of Campbellton, Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, following the August 4, 1848, meeting, a petition was submitted to the Grand
6 Lodge of Georgia for a Masonic charter for the Town of Campbellton, Georgia; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 was granted a Masonic charter on November 1, 1848,
8 by the Grand Lodge of Georgia; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 is still located in the Town of Campbellton, Georgia,
10 once the county seat of Campbell County, Georgia; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 still meets in the original building, one of the few
12 remaining structures in the old town, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month; in
13 the early years, they met at first candlelight and now meet at 7:30 P.M.; and

14 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 members built the lodge building and maintained it
15 throughout its 175 year history with very few changes to the original structure, and it is the
16 oldest Masonic Lodge in Georgia still continuously meeting in its original building; and

17 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 still maintains and extensively uses much of the
18 original furniture today and maintains an archive of relics collected through the years that is
19 on display in the foyer and dining room of the lodge; and

20 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 has on file the minutes of every meeting held along
21 with all the original paperwork, including checks and receipts of many lodge functions as
22 well as the first petition for degrees ever read in the lodge; and

23 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 possesses a life-size portrait of the central figure of the
24 Hiramic Legend, Most Worshipful Grand Master Hiram Abiff, the Widows Son. The
25 portrait, unique to Georgia and perhaps the nation, was purchased in 1851 after the Lodge
26 authorized Past Master W.A. Austell (for whom the city of Austell, Georgia, is named) to
27 commission James Whitehorn, a New York artist to complete the painting; and

28 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76, on March 14, 1851, had the above-mentioned portrait
29 shipped aboard the steamer, "Florida," from New York to the sea port in Savannah and
30 Brother Austell traveled to Savannah and purchased the painting. The total cost for the
31 painting was \$50.74; and

32 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 maintains a treasured relic in the framed Masonic
33 apron which belonged to one of the officers of the Lodge, Captain Allen Campbell Watkins,
34 Company A, 21st Georgia Regiment of the Confederate States of America. Brother Watkins
35 met his untimely death while leading a charge against the enemy at the Battle of

36 Chancellorsville in Virginia on May 3, 1863. After his death, the apron was handed down
37 through various family members before it was returned to the Lodge by his granddaughter
38 with the request that it be displayed in the lodge; and

39 WHEREAS, during the Battle of Atlanta, General William Tecumseh Sherman stationed
40 troops around the City of Campbellton, Georgia, to ensure that Campbellton sustained no
41 damage from the battle. This was out of respect for one of his dying classmates whom he
42 and other classmates had visited in Campbellton, Georgia, when they were all attending West
43 Point; and

44 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 had many charter members who were prominent
45 businessmen and politicians and had great influence on the Town of Campbellton and
46 Campbell County such as Brother Austell for whom the City of Austell, Georgia, is named;
47 Brother Robert Tuggle who was the Campbell County Treasurer whose name appeared on
48 the Campbell currency; and Brother William M. Butt who, in 1854, was the eighth mayor of
49 Atlanta, Georgia; and

50 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 today still has many members who are prominent in
51 their field, in politics, law enforcement, and many other fields of endeavor; and

52 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 has maintained an incredibly significant and historical
53 past, and today's members are continually maintaining that significance through its influential
54 and dedicated members who still have the community in mind and work to help those in
55 need; and

56 WHEREAS, Campbellton Lodge #76 stands as the model for preserving the past and
57 maintaining it for future generations of men and Masons; and

58 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that Campbellton Lodge #76, a Historic
59 Masonic Lodge, and its Members, Trustees, and Officers be honored for their outstanding
60 efforts and contributions to promote brotherly love, live up to the Masonic principles of
61 taking good men and making them better men, and promote good will and harmony in the
62 local area and throughout the State of Georgia.

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
64 the members of this body join in honoring Campbellton Lodge #76 and its Members,
65 Trustees, and Officers for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the preservation of
66 Masonic values in Georgia.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
68 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
69 Campbellton Lodge #76.