

House Resolution 136

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st, Dunahoo of the 30th, England of the 116th, Dubnik of the 29th, and Hawkins of the 27th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the successful life of James Russell Vandiver of Jackson County, Georgia; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, James Russell Vandiver's passing on January 25, 2021, marked the end of a
4 remarkable career in vocational education in Georgia; his legacy lives in the good work he
5 created and sustained for thousands of Georgia students; and

6 WHEREAS, the Habersham County native earned degrees from the University of West
7 Georgia, Brenau University, and the University of Georgia; his 37 year career with the
8 Technical College System of Georgia was notable, distinguished, and worthy of honor and
9 praise; and

10 WHEREAS, while serving Lanier Technical College for more than 37 years, he helped lead
11 it from a small vocational school to a college-accredited institution with satellite campuses
12 serving thousands of Georgia students and families; and

13 WHEREAS, as the main campus in Oakwood grew and expanded its program offerings, he
14 led the drive to establish campuses in Forsyth and Dawson counties, ensuring the availability
15 of first-class vocational-technical education, which served many; and

16 WHEREAS, the hallmarks of his career include recruiting vital industries and employers to
17 the Northeast Georgia region, deploying the college's critical Quick Start program
18 advantages, and creating its Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center and its Industrial
19 Ammonia Refrigeration Training Center, which are critical to the success of employers; and

20 WHEREAS, his contributions to the college and community were massive; he earned his role
21 as an ultimate "game changer and deal closer" as he dealt with the intricacies of industrial
22 and manufacturing recruiting techniques; and

23 WHEREAS, upon his well-earned retirement in 2013, he devoted countless hours to his
24 beloved family, even penning an occasional newspaper column titled *Everyday's a Saturday*;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to appropriately commend, salute, and pay
27 tribute to a giant Georgian whose life and career stand as a testament to opportunities for
28 others.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body join in commending the successful life of James Russell Vandiver
31 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 family of James Russell Vandiver.