

House Resolution 1491

By: Representative Greene of the 151st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of James Edgar Coleman; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of James Edgar Coleman on February 16, 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Coleman was born on July 13, 1919, in Fort Gaines, Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he attended the Georgia Institute of Technology, was involved in the Kappa
6 Sigma Fraternity, the Georgia Tech Glee Club, and the Naval ROTC, and graduated in 1940
7 with a degree in industrial management; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
9 States Navy, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World War
10 II; he commanded patrol torpedo boats around the world during his three-year tour, finishing
11 as Navy Lieutenant Commander; and
- 12 WHEREAS, upon his return from the Navy in 1945, he became involved in his father's
13 company, the Coleman Oil Company, served on the City Council for 24 years, and was
14 active in the American Legion, the Lions Club, the VFW, the Masons, the Historic
15 Chattahoochee Commission, and a range of educational projects; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Mr. Coleman was also actively involved in the massive project to build the
17 Walter F. George Lock and Dam, resulting in a lake that occupies 85 miles of the
18 Chattahoochee River, separates Alabama and Georgia with 640 miles of shoreline, and
19 generates enough electricity to serve 56,000 homes; and
- 20 WHEREAS, recognizing the recreational opportunity of the lake to draw income to the
21 region, he helped create the George T. Bagby Park and Lodge with facilities for boating,
22 swimming, fishing, and picnicking and got state funding to build the Meadow Links Golf

23 Course, which first opened to play in 1998 and was ranked by *Golf Digest* as "the sixth best
24 new affordable public course" in the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Coleman's love of Fort Gaines evolved into him becoming the first city
26 historian; he subsequently wrote several books concerning local history, memoirs of his
27 childhood in Fort Gaines, and his memories of World War I; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a speaker to visitors to Fort Gaines from the Elder Hostel program for
29 many years and created a 24 stop walking tour of Fort Gaines, which included his own house
30 and the Coleman Opera House; and

31 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife of 57 years, Jimmie, and was
32 blessed with four remarkable children; and

33 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
34 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
35 family and friends were admired by others; and

36 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Coleman will long be remembered for
37 his love of family and friendship and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
38 knowing him.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of James Edgar Coleman and
41 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
44 family of James Edgar Coleman.