

## House Resolution 1739

By: Representatives Dreyer of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, and Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the contributions of Father Austin Ford and the Emmaus  
2 House Community Center; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Father Ford is an Episcopal priest and long-time civil rights advocate who has  
4 led efforts for welfare rights, neighborhood empowerment, and racial justice; and

5 WHEREAS, Father Ford graduated from Emory College in 1950 with a bachelor's degree  
6 in English and Greek, before going on to study at the divinity school of the University of the  
7 South; and

8 WHEREAS, Father Ford was awarded the 1994 Emory Medal; and

9 WHEREAS, Father Ford served his community as an assistant rector at St. Luke's Episcopal  
10 Church in downtown Atlanta from 1953 to 1955, then as the first rector of St. Bartholomew's  
11 on Lavista Road until 1967, where he urged the Church and his congregations toward civil  
12 rights activism, taking parishioners to protest marches, starting inner-city daycare centers,  
13 and sponsoring an SNCC chapter at St. Bartholomew's; Ford also helped organize efforts to  
14 fight for the integration of public schools and housing projects; and

15 WHEREAS, Emmaus House is a community center founded by Father Ford in Peoplestown  
16 in 1967, which provides services to the community in the Episcopal tradition; and

17 WHEREAS, Emmaus House focuses on the three strategic priorities: economic success,  
18 academic achievement and youth development, and grassroots leadership and social justice;  
19 and this comprehensive support structure consists of services meant to address the needs of  
20 the entire family so that they can experience academic achievement and sustained economic  
21 success; and

22 WHEREAS, these educational and social enrichment programs, case management,  
23 emergency stabilization, and other services, are crucial in addressing the systemic challenges  
24 that confront people of color and those who live in poverty; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding contributions of this  
26 extraordinary Georgian be appropriately recognized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
28 the members of this body recognize and commend Father Austin Ford and Emmaus House  
29 for their outstanding contributions to the State of Georgia and extend most sincere best  
30 wishes for continued success.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Father  
33 Austin Ford, the public, and the press.