

House Resolution 458

By: Representatives Powell of the 32nd, DeLoach of the 167th, Parrish of the 158th, Williams of the 168th, Tankersley of the 160th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Martin Walton NeSmith; 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 Martin Walton NeSmith on November 17, 2020; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Martin Walton NeSmith was born on November 1, 1948, in Nevils, Georgia;
5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States National Guard and later began his distinguished career in the automotive industry,
8 working with Siefert Equipment and, at the age of 24, becoming the youngest dealer in the
9 nation after purchasing a Chevrolet dealership; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Martin conducted his business with grace, integrity, and geniality,
11 revolutionizing the car industry with his No Hassle Buying policy and exemplifying his
12 mission to ensure that customers were always treated as honored guests; and
- 13 WHEREAS, as a result of his dedication to excellence, he was bestowed the prestigious
14 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer of the Year Award in 2001, and with 61 dealers nominated

15 out of 20,500 dealers nationwide, was selected as their National Winner, and the 2008
16 General Motor Dealer of the Year Award; and

17 WHEREAS, he was a philanthropist at heart who contributed to innumerable causes,
18 including the United Way, Red Cross, and local recreation departments; served on many
19 boards, such as the Chairman of the Board of the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association
20 from 1993 to 1994; the National Automobile Dealers Association Board from 2001 to 2008;
21 the Board of Regents from 1999 to 2006; and Chairman of Coastal Conservation Association
22 of Georgia in 2000; and joined together with partners to build a local medical clinic in
23 Shellman Bluff; and

24 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith who witnessed Christ through word and deed,
25 Martin was an active member of First Baptist Church in Claxton for many years and
26 Shellmen Bluff Baptist Church; and

27 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Suzette, and was blessed with
28 two remarkable children, Demere and Chad, as well as five outstanding grandchildren; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Martin Walton NeSmith will long be
30 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
31 had the great fortune of knowing him.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Martin Walton NeSmith
34 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
37 family of Martin Walton NeSmith.