

House Resolution 498

By: Representatives Gaines of the 117th, Wiedower of the 119th, Martin of the 49th, Jones of the 47th, Frye of the 118th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mary Louise McBee for her years of leadership as a
2 University of Georgia administrator and state legislator; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mary Louise McBee started her career in higher education by graduating from
4 East Tennessee State University and working for 11 years as assistant dean of women and
5 dean of women; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to her education at East Tennessee State University, she received
7 a master's degree in counseling and student personnel administration at Columbia University
8 and a doctorate in counseling and psychology at Ohio State University; and

9 WHEREAS, Mary Louise McBee started her work as a University of Georgia (UGA)
10 administrator in 1963 as dean of women; and

11 WHEREAS, she worked under four university presidents before retiring in 1988 as acting
12 vice president for academic affairs, the second-highest position at UGA at the time; and

13 WHEREAS, she held appointments in psychology and higher education as well as the
14 highest positions at UGA in both student affairs and academic affairs; and

15 WHEREAS, widely admired by students and faculty alike, Mary Louise McBee was a
16 favorite for her fair approach to challenging situations and her integrity; and

17 WHEREAS, she was a role model and mentor for women, working throughout her career to
18 expand opportunities for women in higher education; and

19 WHEREAS, additionally, she chaired the committee that led to UGA implementing Title IX,
20 which provided additional support for female athletes; and

21 WHEREAS, a six-term member of the Georgia House of Representatives from 1992 to 2004,
22 Mary Louise McBee used her experiences at UGA to help improve the state higher education
23 policy; and

24 WHEREAS, while in the House, she chaired the Higher Education Committee, vice chaired
25 the Retirement Committee, and established the Governor's Teaching Fellows Program; and

26 WHEREAS, in her roles, Mary Louise McBee supported legislation that allowed teachers
27 and university system employees to count their unused sick leave as service creditable
28 toward retirement, helped to ensure the financial stability of the HOPE Scholarship, and
29 worked to strengthen the school breakfast program for low-income children; and

30 WHEREAS, outside of her work at UGA and in the legislature, she was an engaged member
31 of the Athens community; and

32 WHEREAS, she mentored at Clarke Middle School, was a trustee of First United Methodist
33 Church, and was a member of both the Athens-Clarke County Charter Commission and the
34 Athens-Clarke County Hospital Authority; and

35 WHEREAS, Mary Louise McBee received many honors as a result of her career and public
36 service, including the Elridge McMillan Lifetime Achievement Award and the Governor's
37 Award in the Humanities.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body honor the legacy of Mary Louise McBee and offer sincere
40 condolences to her family and friends.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
43 family of Mary Louise McBee.