

House Resolution 689

By: Representative Leverett of the 123<sup>rd</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and congratulating Leah Higginbotham; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Leah Higginbotham is currently a freshman at Elbert County Comprehensive  
3 High School; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Leah began showing dairy heifers in the fourth grade; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Leah is now a freshman member of the Elbert County High School FFA Dairy  
6 Show Team; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Leah has also competed for Elbert County 4-H; and
- 8 WHEREAS, 2022 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Georgia Commercial Dairy Heifer  
9 Show at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry; and
- 10 WHEREAS, despite her young age, Leah has participated for several years in the Georgia  
11 Commercial Dairy Heifer Show; and

12 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commercial Dairy Heifer Show was started in 1997 by University  
13 of Georgia Animal and Dairy Science Professors Larry Guthrie and Mark McCann to spark  
14 students' interest in dairy production; and

15 WHEREAS, in the Georgia Commercial Dairy Heifer Circuit, middle and high school  
16 students are allowed to borrow a dairy heifer from a commercial dairy farmer, provide daily  
17 care and grooming for the animal, train the animal for show, and then, at the end of the  
18 season, return the animal to the commercial dairy farm; and

19 WHEREAS, participation in the Georgia Commercial Dairy Heifer Shows now averages 250  
20 student exhibitors and up to 300 commercial heifers; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2019 and again in 2022, Leah won 1st place Showmanship belt buckles at  
22 the Georgia National Fair Junior Commercial Dairy Show; and

23 WHEREAS, at the 2022 Georgia National Fair, Leah Higginbotham and her Holstein,  
24 Willow, garnered numerous high honors, including 2nd place in grade Showmanship, 1st  
25 place in the heaviest weight class, 1st place in Division, and, ultimately, Grand Champion  
26 overall; and

27 WHEREAS, at 15 months old, Willow weighed in at 1,015 pounds; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2023, at the Georgia Junior Nationals state finals, Leah continued her streak  
29 of awards and won 1st place in ninth grade showmanship; and

30 WHEREAS, Leah is the daughter of proud parents Alan "Pete" Higginbotham and Kim  
31 Wilkerson Higginbotham, who operate a family farm of show Holsteins and registered Black

32 Angus cattle in Elberton, Georgia, as well as sister to Lila, who is an agribusiness  
33 communications major at the University of Georgia; and

34 WHEREAS, Leah's hard work and dedication deserve high praise.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
36 the members of this body recognize and congratulate Leah Higginbotham for her hard work  
37 and outstanding accomplishments and extend to her best wishes for continued personal  
38 success and achievement.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
40 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Leah  
41 Higginbotham.