

## House Resolution 742

By: Representatives Collins of the 68<sup>th</sup> and Gravley of the 67<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Thomas A. Dorsey Festival; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Thomas A. Dorsey Festival will take place on June 23-24, 2017, in  
3 Downtown Villa Rica, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, considered the Father of Gospel music, Thomas A. Dorsey was a talented  
5 musician, vocalist, and songwriter; and
- 6 WHEREAS, born on July 1, 1899, in Villa Rica, Georgia, to a Baptist minister and a music  
7 teacher, Thomas had to drop out of school at 11 years old in order to support his family, yet  
8 by the 1920's, he was slowly rising to fame, and by 1928, his song *Tight Like That* became  
9 a best-selling record hit which sold more than 7 million copies; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he is credited with publishing more than 400 jazz and blues songs and  
11 composing hundreds more while also establishing the first black Gospel publishing company,  
12 Dorsey's House of Music; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Thomas' music has touched the lives of many, including Martin Luther King,  
14 Jr., and President Lyndon B. Johnson, and he has received distinction for his talent, including  
15 being inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame as well as being the first African  
16 American to be elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame; and
- 17 WHEREAS, this outstanding and beloved individual passed away on January 23, 1993, but  
18 he has left behind an incredible legacy that will continue to live through his music, which is  
19 still appreciated throughout the world.
- 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
21 the members of this body commend the Thomas A. Dorsey Festival for preserving and

22 promoting the legacy of Thomas A. Dorsey and for spreading his music across the great State  
23 of Georgia.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
25 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
26 public and the press.