

## House Resolution 752

By: Representatives Mathiak of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Holly of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Crowe of the 118<sup>th</sup>, and Daniel of the 117<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mary Ann Mitcham for her more than 15 years of  
2 extraordinary contributions and devotion to the betterment of others in the City of Hampton  
3 and Henry County; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mary Ann Mitcham served as president of the Hampton Elementary PTA for  
5 eight years, where she served the children and adults of the community in tremendous  
6 measures; and

7 WHEREAS, during her time in the PTA, Mary Ann served as a cheerleading and softball  
8 coach, a Girl Scout leader and district chairwomen for Pine Valley Girl Scouts, a CPR  
9 instructor and district coordinator for the Georgia Heart Association, and a director for the  
10 boards of the Leadership Henry Class of 1998, Safe Kids Henry County, and the Henry Arts  
11 Alliance; and

12 WHEREAS, when her son, Johnathan, was born with Down syndrome, Mary Ann, along  
13 with two other mothers of sons with Down Syndrome, founded a preschool for  
14 developmentally delayed students by the name of The Joseph Sam's School; and

15 WHEREAS, The Joseph Sam's School was founded in 1984 as a three-day-a-week program,  
16 and it now serves developmentally delayed students from infancy through 12th grade, is fully  
17 accredited, and operates on the county school calendar; and

18 WHEREAS, Mary Ann remained dedicated to making a difference through the Hampton  
19 Business Association as booth coordinator for The Bear Creek Festival, which she did for  
20 21 years; and

21 WHEREAS, during this time, she was also elected to the Henry County Board of Education,  
22 where she was instrumental in the creation of the "Balanced Calendar," which remains in use  
23 today with many school systems in Georgia adopting a similar calendar; and

24 WHEREAS, after 12 years of service as a council member for the City of Hampton, Mary  
25 Ann was recognized as Mayor Pro Tem Mitcham upon the death of then-Mayor R. W. Coley  
26 on October 17, 2012; and

27 WHEREAS, after a two-year absence, she was re-elected to another four-year term in which  
28 she attended every Henry County Chamber of Commerce Retreat and GMA convention, and  
29 she served on various committees during her time on the council, including Finance, Public  
30 Buildings/ Property, and Parks and Recreation; and

31 WHEREAS, Mary Ann brought about the idea of the "Splash Pad" as way to help Hampton  
32 "cool off during the hot summer months," which was implemented in Brayer Park next to the  
33 handicapped-accessible playground located in Henry County; and

34 WHEREAS, another position held dearly by Mary Ann is that of Mrs. Claus, in which she  
35 spends hours with the children of Hampton and the surrounding area, sharing their joy and  
36 helping them blow sparkling wishes towards Santa at the North Pole.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 the members of this body recognize and commend Mary Ann Mitcham for her more than 15  
39 years of extraordinary contributions and devotion to the betterment of others in the City of  
40 Hampton and Henry County.

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 Ann Mitcham.