

House Resolution 763

By: Representatives Burns of the 159th, Hitchens of the 161st, and Williams of the 168th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 26, 2022, as a day of remembrance; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, history indicates the old African American cemetery at Ebenezer has been used
3 as a burial ground for enslaved African Americans from the mid-eighteenth century through
4 the United States Civil War and afterwards for the newly freed community into the early
5 twentieth century; and

6 WHEREAS, the portion of the cemetery designated for the African American community
7 was neglected with minimal or no upkeep for decades after it was no longer used as a burial
8 site; and

9 WHEREAS, over the past several years, members of the NAACP, the Effingham Master
10 Gardeners association, and the community at large have spent countless hours cleaning up
11 the neglected cemetery; and

12 WHEREAS, several community businesses, groups, and individuals have donated to the
13 cleaning process and up-keep of the cemetery grounds; and

14 WHEREAS, over the previous five years, the NAACP and Master Gardeners association
15 have held a wreath-laying and remembrance service for those buried in the old African
16 American cemetery at Ebenezer, including remembering those drowned and murdered during
17 the Ebenezer Creek Massacre on December 9, 1864.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body recognize February 26, 2022, as a day of remembrance in
20 Effingham County for those who perished at Ebenezer Creek.

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