

House Resolution 802

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Alexander of the 66th, Fludd of the 64th, Dawkins-Haigler of the 91st, Bell of the 58th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the Giwayen Mata ensemble; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Giwayen Mata is the award-winning, dynamic, soul-stirring dance, percussion,
3 and vocal ensemble that celebrates the richness of traditional Africa by exhibiting its
4 exemplary art forms; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the ensemble performs traditional, contemporary, and original pieces that
6 address issues pertaining to people of color, women, and the environment; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the seed of the ensemble was planted in 1991 and was done in the spirit of the
8 principles of kuumba and kujichagulia, words for creativity and self-determination; and
- 9 WHEREAS, giwayen mata is a Hausa term from Nigeria that means "elephant women"; as
10 artists of African decent, the ensemble felt a responsibility to be the leaders in the
11 preservation of the cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the founders of the ensemble chose to be trailblazers by playing the jembe
13 drum, an unprecedented first on the stages of Atlanta; and
- 14 WHEREAS, hailing from the United States, Haiti, Senegal, and Ghana, Giwayen Mata
15 represents women of international origin at various stages of womanhood; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Giwayen Mata has made many radio and television appearances, including an
17 episode of *America's Got Talent*, and has been mentioned in many magazine, newspaper, and
18 Internet articles; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Giwayen Mata's mission is to celebrate their lives as women and uplift their
20 communities and their world while perpetuating the cultures of Africa and the African

21 Diaspora through the study, creation, teaching, and presentation of artistic media, including
22 dances, rhythms, songs, poetry, and prose, around the world.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body recognize the Giwayen Mata ensemble as a group of exceptional
25 individuals whose determination to celebrate culture through the arts has enriched the State
26 of Georgia and extend their sincere best wishes for future success.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Giwayen Mata
29 ensemble.