

House Resolution 870

By: Representatives Dickey of the 140th, Pirkle of the 155th, Watson of the 172nd, and Houston of the 170th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Scotty Raines, Georgia's 2022 Farmer of the Year; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Scotty Raines of Turner County did not grow up on a farm; he was an active
3 member of the Turner County High School FFA chapter who worked as a farm technician
4 for Agra Tech Seed Research after high school; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he began farming full time in 1993, partnering with his father-in-law on 500
6 acres of rented land and establishing a personal herd of 30 beef cows; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he spent the next 28 years expanding and diversifying his farming operation,
8 with special emphasis in marketing strategies related to cotton, corn, peanuts, and
9 watermelons, and he now produces on more than 2,300 acres; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was nominated by Guy Hancock, University of Georgia Cooperative
11 Extension agent in Turner County; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he is united in marriage to his wife, Melanie, and their union has produced two
13 beautiful daughters, Celie and Christian; they have given and continue to give of their time
14 and talents to the First Baptist Church in Tifton and in many community activities; and

15 WHEREAS, they have received numerous awards for their farming operation, including the
16 Georgia Farm Bureau Young Farmer Achievement Award, the Turner County Chamber of
17 Commerce Farmer of the Year, the Soil and Water Conservation Award, and the Georgia
18 Young Farmers Farm Family of the Year; and

19 WHEREAS, off the farm, he serves on the Georgia Farm Bureau Board representing the 8th
20 District; and

21 WHEREAS, he has emphasized growing the percentage of irrigated acres, adopting
22 technology to improve both the efficiency and sustainability of crop production, and adding
23 value to his crops beyond the farm gate through marketing strategies. He currently utilizes
24 cover crops and strip tillage, grid sampling and variable rate fertilization, and moisture
25 sensors in his irrigation strategy. In the upcoming year, the next step is to invest in precision
26 planter to plant stand and uniformity; and

27 WHEREAS, this remarkable Georgian farmer has established a glowing reputation of
28 renown throughout Tift County and the entire state for his dedication and high ideals; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
30 extraordinary Georgian farmer be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body commend Scotty Raines, Georgia's 2022 Farmer of the Year, and
33 extend best wishes as he competes for the Swisher Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the
34 Year.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
37 Scotty Raines.