

House Resolution 915

By: Representative Gambill of the 15<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of William A. (Bill) Russell III; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of William A. (Bill) Russell III on December 2, 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, William A. (Bill) Russell III was born on Bill was born in Atlanta on June 5,  
5 1954, a beloved son of William "Bill" and Gene Russell; and

6 WHEREAS, he attended Chamblee High School where he competed as a varsity gymnast,  
7 especially on pommel horse, and graduated in 1972. He attended UGA where he continued  
8 as a gymnast. While in Athens, he found a love for working with his hands and later became  
9 a master electrician and general contractor. His craftsmanship is on display in many Atlanta  
10 homes; and

11 WHEREAS, he was a devoted volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America for many years,  
12 serving as Scoutmaster for Troop 797 in East Cobb and Commissioner of the Foothills  
13 District, earning the Silver Beaver and Distinguished Commissioner Awards in recognition  
14 of his commitment to scouting; and

15 WHEREAS, for much of his life, he had strong ties to Lake Burton in North Georgia, serving  
16 two terms on the Board of Directors for the Lake Burton Civic Association and chairing the  
17 Water Quality Task Force for almost a decade and working with Georgia Power to save  
18 Fireworks Point on Billy Goat Island by adding riprap, and he was awarded the lake's  
19 Community Spirit Award in 2015; and

20 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Joni, and was blessed with a  
21 remarkable son, Andy; and

22 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
23 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
24 family and friends were admired by others; and

25 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
26 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he  
27 made this world a better place in which to live; and

28 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Bill Russell will long be remembered for  
29 his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great  
30 fortune of knowing him.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
32 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of William A. (Bill) Russell  
33 III and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
35 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
36 family of William A. (Bill) Russell III.