

## Senate Resolution 411

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th and Miller of the 49th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending and saluting the talented pottery artisans of Gillsville; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Gillsville, straddling Hall and Banks Counties, was nicknamed "Stonethrow"  
3 by railroad workers in its early days; incorporated as Gillsville in 1901, it was named for a  
4 settler family, the Gills; and
- 5 WHEREAS, for more than two centuries, Gillsville has been the home of talented pottery  
6 throwers now spanning nine generations; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the downtown Gillsville economy is dominated by pottery shops, featuring face  
8 jugs, crocks, surreal masters, angry devils, or smiling characters, evoking inspiration and  
9 incorporating a range of expressions into the face jugs; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the most prominent artisans and retailers include Hewell's Pottery, Bobby  
11 Ferguson Traditional Pottery, Craven Pottery, Craven Family Pottery, Crocker Family  
12 Pottery, Sims Pottery, Turkey Merck, Roger Corn Folk Art Pottery, Turpin Pottery, and Mary  
13 Griffin Folk Art Pottery, all sustaining the history of folk pottery in northeast Georgia, as  
14 documented in John A. Burrison's "Brothers in Clay," confirming family ties to their English  
15 heritage of the 1700s; and
- 16 WHEREAS, potters love their art form and teach classes, perform throwing demonstrations,  
17 travel to regional festivals, and work to keep art in the public school curricula; and
- 18 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the community service of the talented  
19 pottery artisans of Gillsville be duly recognized.
- 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
21 commend and salute the pottery artisans of Gillsville for the enrichment of culture provided  
22 by their art.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
24 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the pottery artisans  
25 of Gillsville.