

House Resolution 1075

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Stephenson of the 90th, and Douglas of the 78th

A RESOLUTION

1 Suggesting that Smith-Barnes Elementary School not be closed or renamed; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Smith-Barnes Elementary School is located in Stockbridge, Henry County,
4 Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, such primary schools were built with funding from the foundation named for
6 Julius Rosenwald, who was one of the early presidents of Sears and Roebuck; and

7 WHEREAS, Julius Rosenwald took particular interest in the plight of African Americans,
8 and his charity committed large sums of money to the construction of schools in poor, rural,
9 and primarily African American school districts in 15 southern states; and

10 WHEREAS, Rosenwald schools were cooperatively built with donations of land and labor
11 by the local African American community and matching financial contributions from the
12 Rosenwald Foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, Smith-Barnes Elementary opened in the fall of 1955 and was constructed on
14 land that was partly donated by Mr. Leonard Smith, an African American leader in the
15 Stockbridge, Henry County, community at that time; and

16 WHEREAS, Leonard Smith's wife had been principal of the Stockbridge Rosenwald school;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Smith-Barnes Elementary takes its name from the Smith family and the name
19 of its first principal, Ms. Rena Barnes; and

20 WHEREAS, the descedents of Leonard Smith are Henry County citizens and still live in
21 close proximity to Smith-Barnes Elementary; and

22 WHEREAS, Smith-Barnes Elementary may be the only elementary school in Henry County
23 named after leaders in the African American community; and

24 WHEREAS, based on this history, Smith-Barnes Elementary is a historical asset in Henry
25 County; and

26 WHEREAS, over the years, Smith-Barnes Elementary has educated students of all races in
27 Henry County and has received and continues to receive recognitions for the academic
28 achievements of its student body.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body highly suggest that Smith-Barnes Elementary School not be closed
31 or renamed and express its support for the continued operation and maintenance of this
32 facility as an elementary school.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.