

House Resolution 1219

By: Representatives McClain of the 109th, Buckner of the 137th, Greene of the 154th, Oliver of the 82nd, and Hugley of the 141st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the accomplishments of Natalie "Tally" Sweat; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Natalie "Tally" Sweat was born on September 7, 1935, in Cuthbert, Georgia;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the Official Butterfly of Georgia is the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, in part
5 because of the efforts of Tally; and

6 WHEREAS, the Garden Club of Georgia is proud of Tally for her long term service to our
7 community, including her work with Park Pride in Atlanta and the Olmstead Linear Park
8 Alliance, her legislative work with the Garden Club of Georgia, her active membership in
9 many garden clubs in Dogwood and Redbud District, and her environmental work with the
10 Georgia Water Coalition; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1989, Tally was the founding board president of Park Pride, a nonprofit
12 organization working with Atlanta communities to improve greenspaces and contribute to
13 community health and well-being; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1995, Tally joined forces with other community leaders and nonprofit
15 organizations to develop a strategy to stabilize and rehabilitate the Olmsted Linear Park in
16 Druid Hills. This led to the establishment of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) in
17 1997, which to this day has successfully renovated and managed the 45 acres of beautiful
18 greenspace and old growth forests; and

19 WHEREAS, from 2011 to 2024, Tally served as the legislative chair for the Garden Club of
20 Georgia and spoke out often for Georgia's amazing wilderness areas, wildlife, and plants. She
21 also served in many other positions with garden clubs in Stone Mountain and Druid Hills;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, since 2013, Tally has served on the Georgia Water Coalition's leadership
24 committee, where she has helped to chair events and guide the coalition of more than 250
25 organizations to many successes for Georgia's waterways; and

26 WHEREAS, Tally met Dan Sweat when they both worked at *The Atlanta*
27 *Journal-Constitution*. They married in 1956, and Tally was an indomitable partner to Dan
28 as he served as a executive director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, president of Central
29 Atlanta Progress, and more; and

30 WHEREAS, in 2020, Central Atlanta Progress honored Tally for her decades of community
31 service with the prestigious "Dan Sweat Award," renaming the award to the "Dan & Tally
32 Sweat Award." This award annually honors those individuals who have done much to make
33 downtown Atlanta a better place and have exhibited traits of "exceptional leadership, forward
34 thinking public service, and humility of spirit"; and

35 WHEREAS, Tally is very proud of her birthplace, the home of noted educator Fletcher
36 Henderson Sr. and Fletcher Henderson Jr., the composer who wrote "Tuxedo Junction,"
37 accompanied Bessie Smith on record, and invented "swing," without which "it don't mean
38 a thing."

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
40 the members of this body honor Natalie "Tally" Sweat for her tireless devotion to public
41 service and extend best wishes for continued success.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
44 Natalie "Tally" Sweat.