

## House Resolution 1387

By: Representatives Hatchett of the 150<sup>th</sup>, Morris of the 156<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 119<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 70<sup>th</sup>, Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. Jim L. Gillis, Jr., for his outstanding work in the conservation of the State  
2 of Georgia's resources; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, graduating from the School of Forestry at the University of Georgia in 1937,  
4 Mr. Jim L. Gillis, Jr., has devoted much of his life toward the efforts of conservation,  
5 stewardship, and public service; and

6 WHEREAS, after working for the Georgia Forestry Commission in Baxley as the Assistant  
7 District Forester, Mr. Gillis returned home to Treutlen County to manage the family  
8 turpentine business; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillis then served as a founding board member of the Oohoopee River Soil  
10 and Water Conservation District, where he was also district chairman for the entirety of his  
11 nearly 75-year tenure from September, 1939, to April, 2015; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1949, Mr. Gillis was appointed to the State Soil Conservation Committee as  
13 one of five state district conservation supervisors where he was also chairman for 24 years;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the State Committee, now known as the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation  
16 Commission, is a statewide government agency that has worked since the 1930s to improve  
17 the natural resources of Georgia; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillis was also elected president of the Georgia Association of  
19 Conservation Districts in 1945; and

20 WHEREAS, since the Oohoopee River Soil and Water Conservation District's founding in  
21 1939, it has worked to protect the area's natural resources through educational opportunities,  
22 financial assistance, and the utilization of Best Management Practices; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillis's leadership and devotion to shaping conservation policy across the  
24 State of Georgia have been critical in reaching the overall goal and objective, "That each  
25 acre of land is used in accordance with its capabilities and treated in accordance with its  
26 needs."; and

27 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the exemplary accomplishments of this  
28 distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized for his nearly eight decades of service  
29 to this great state.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body recognize Mr. Jim L. Gillis, Jr., for his dedicated service to his  
32 community and state.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr.  
35 Jim L. Gillis, Jr.