

## House Resolution 1440

By: Representatives Carter of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Gilliard of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Gonzalez of the 117<sup>th</sup>, Stovall of the 74<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Alfred Watkins and recognizing March, 2018, as Music In Our Schools month  
2 at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education  
4 (NAfME) as Music In Our Schools Month, encouraging schools across the nation to focus  
5 on music education; and

6 WHEREAS, Music In Our Schools began with a one-day event in New York in 1973, and  
7 has since grown into a month-long international celebration of school music; and

8 WHEREAS, the purpose of this celebration is to raise awareness of the importance of music  
9 education, and to remind us that school is where all children should have access to music;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Music In Our Schools Month is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their  
12 music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the benefits  
13 that school music provides students of all ages; and

14 WHEREAS, music education shapes the way students understand themselves and the world  
15 around them, allowing for a deep engagement with learning; and

16 WHEREAS, the skills nurtured by music education, such as creativity, collaboration,  
17 communication, and critical thinking, are vital to students' academic, personal, and  
18 professional success; and

19 WHEREAS, throughout the month of March, music educators and students across the State  
20 of Georgia will demonstrate the importance of quality music programs to the lives of young  
21 people, with concerts and other music related activities; and

22 WHEREAS, Alfred Watkins is the cofounder, musical director, and conductor of the Cobb  
23 Wind Symphony; the cofounder and president of the Minority Band Directors National  
24 Association; the former Director of Bands at Murphy High School, where his bands  
25 consistently earned superior ratings at both marching and concert events, and where he was  
26 named 1978 Teacher of the Year; and the retired Director of Bands of Lassiter High School  
27 in Cobb County, where he worked 37 years and where his concert ensembles and marching  
28 bands gained a national reputation for excellence; and

29 WHEREAS, he developed the concept of Symphonic Band Camp; was the associate director  
30 of the Atlanta Olympic Marching Band, which performed in the opening and closing  
31 ceremonies of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta; and has been the recipient of  
32 countless awards and accolades, including 16 Certificates of Excellence from the National  
33 Band Association, the Edwin Franco Goldman Award, and has been inducted into the Bands  
34 of America Hall of Fame; and

35 WHEREAS, Alfred has served with numerous organizations, including the National Band  
36 Association and Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Inc.; and

37 WHEREAS, Georgia has been a significant supporter of music, strives to be the number one  
38 state in music production, and joins its music students and educators in celebrating the power  
39 of music education.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
41 the members of this body commend Alfred Watkins and recognize March, 2018, as Music  
42 In Our Schools month at the state capitol.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Alfred  
45 Watkins, the public, and the press.