

House Resolution 1513

By: Representatives Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup> and Cannon of the 172<sup>nd</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Willie D. Batchelor; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Willie D. Batchelor on January 17, 2024; and

4 WHEREAS, Willie D. Batchelor was born on April 7, 1934, a beloved son of Marie and Will  
5 Batchelor; and

6 WHEREAS, "Willie D," as he was affectionately called, graduated from Brooks County  
7 Training School, where he excelled in sports and played on three state championship teams  
8 in football and track; and

9 WHEREAS, he furthered his education and athletic career at Savannah State University,  
10 graduating with degrees in health education and biology as well as setting the pole vault  
11 record at the National Relays at Tuskegee University; and

12 WHEREAS, Willie D. Batchelor began his professional career as a teacher and coach at  
13 Cook County Training School, where he led his teams to multiple conference championships  
14 and one state championship; and

15 WHEREAS, after 30 years of teaching, he dedicated himself to public service and became  
16 the first African American County Commissioner for Cook County, Georgia, serving from  
17 1985 to 2006 and making significant contributions to the community; and

18 WHEREAS, in honor of his service, the county named the Public Works building after him,  
19 marking another first for an African American in Cook County; and

20 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Julia, and was blessed with a  
21 remarkable daughter, Stephanie, as well as three wonderful grandchildren, Christian,  
22 Chandler, and Lauren; and

23 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Willie D. Batchelor will long be  
24 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who  
25 had the great fortune of knowing him.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Willie D. Batchelor and  
28 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
31 family of Willie D. Batchelor.