

House Resolution 1663

By: Representative Cheokas of the 138th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Russell Thomas, Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Russell Thomas, Jr., was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on November 22, 1934,
3 and has resided in Americus, Georgia, since 1939; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he graduated from Americus High School in 1952, attended Emory University,
5 graduated from Auburn University in 1956, with a bachelor's degree in agricultural
6 administration, and is the president of Thomas Farms, Inc.; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he is united in love and marriage to his wife, Andrea Ruth Patterson, and is
8 blessed with eight remarkable children, twelve wonderful grandchildren, and six incredible
9 great-grandchildren; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was first elected as the Mayor of Americus in November, 1979, and served
11 from 1980 to 1988, and was re-elected in November, 1993, and served from 1994 to 2001;
12 and
- 13 WHEREAS, as Mayor, he mentored Ross King, elevated Americus to one of the first ten
14 cities designated as a Georgia City of Excellence in 2000, revitalized and redeveloped
15 downtown Americus, received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for 12
16 consecutive years, and improved many other aspects of the Americus community; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he also served on the Americus City Board of Education from 1972 to 1980 and
18 on the South Georgia Technical College Board; was the chairman of the Sumter County
19 Board of Tax Assessors from 1976 to 1980; served at the Rosalyn Carter Institute of Georgia
20 Southwestern State University; and he continues to serve on the boards of Citizens Bank of
21 Americus and the Mix Memorial Foundation; and

22 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
23 talent, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced by his
24 appointment to the Georgia Commission on State Growth Policy by Governor Busbee in
25 1982, and the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority by Governor Harris, where he
26 served as chairman from 1983 to 1989; and

27 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths, and it is abundantly fitting and proper
28 that this remarkable Georgian be recognized.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize Russell Thomas, Jr., for his outstanding
31 accomplishments and contributions to the State of Georgia.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
34 Russell Thomas, Jr.