

## House Resolution 1771

By: Representatives Howard of the 124<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Randall of the 142<sup>nd</sup>, Sims of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, and Prince of the 127<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the rich legacy of the Lamar School of Nursing; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, Dr. William Doughty, Jr., an instructor at the Medical College  
4 of Georgia and a private practitioner, learned that local financier, Gazeway B. Lamar, who  
5 died in 1874, left funds for the "building of two hospitals for the exclusive care of Negro  
6 patients" in Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, Savannah had acquired half of the funds to build a hospital for blacks in that  
8 city, but Augusta's share remained untouched; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Doughty asked the City Council of Augusta for funds to match the gift in  
10 order to build a replacement facility for the old Freedmen's Hospital that was built by the  
11 Freedmen's Bureau, on Gwinnett Street in the current location of the Farmer's Market, for  
12 the care of many blacks who migrated to Augusta following the Civil War, and its nickname  
13 was "The Pest House"; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1895, a 75 bed Lamar Hospital, a continuation of Freedmen's Hospital, was  
15 constructed on Gwinnett Street, now Laney Walker Boulevard, at the present site of  
16 Tabernacle Baptist Church, and the Board of Health assumed responsibility of the  
17 Freedmen's Hospital upon construction of the Lamar Hospital; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1911, buildings and medical operations were inadequate, and in January of  
19 that year, the deteriorating structure collapsed when a defective wire in the ceiling of the  
20 third floor caused a fire destroying the building; and

21 WHEREAS, the Haines Institute temporarily housed the patients until the reopening of the  
22 Contagious and Infectious Disease Hospital and the Lamar Wing of University Hospital was  
23 built; and

24 WHEREAS, ten girls were sent from Haines Institute in 1893 to form a nurse training class,  
25 with the first graduating in 1896, and this marked the first kind of nurse training for Negro  
26 girls in the city of Augusta and the South, the predecessor of the Lamar School of Nursing  
27 of the University Hospital; and

28 WHEREAS, Lucy Laney and Amelia Sullivan started a three-year training program for the  
29 nurses in 1906, and in 1909, Ludie Andrews successfully sued the Georgia State Board of  
30 Nurse Examiners to secure black nurses the right to take the state board examination and  
31 become licensed; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1913, the nursing school was moved to former quarters, Freedmen's Hospital,  
33 "The Pest House," and in 1925, the Lamar School of Nursing was moved to University  
34 Hospital on the newly opened Lamar Wing; and

35 WHEREAS, the patients from "The Pest House" were transferred to the new quarters at  
36 University Hospital, Lamar Wing, which was built from the money obtained from the sale  
37 of the land to Tabernacle Baptist Church, and the Lamar Nursing students lived on the fourth  
38 floor of the Lamar Wing until Stoney Nurses Home was built in 1939; and

39 WHEREAS, in 1943, the Lamar School of Nursing participated in the accelerated program  
40 under the auspices of the U.S. Cadet corps, and the students were enrolled and housed at  
41 Paine College, an affiliation that continued until 1956, for a nine-month period during which  
42 they received instruction in the basic sciences; and

43 WHEREAS, the segregated schools of nursing merged in 1965 to form the University  
44 Hospital School of Nursing; and

45 WHEREAS, the rich legacy of the Lamar School of Nursing continues to live on in more  
46 than 200 graduates across the United States.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
48 the members of this body recognize and commend the Lamar School of Nursing for all of its  
49 remarkable achievements.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
51 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
52 Lamar School of Nursing Alumnae Association.