

House Resolution 2010

By: Representative Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Ray Anthony Ritchie; 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 Ray Anthony Ritchie on February 17, 2014; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie was born on October 31, 1962, in Copperhill, Tennessee, a beloved  
5 son of James Ritchie and Wanda Sue Millsaps; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was a talented musician and singer and a founding member of Blue Ridge  
7 Grass, a bluegrass band formed in the early 1980s; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the band was awarded first place several times at the Georgia Official State  
9 Fiddlers' Convention, and in 2009, it was inducted into the Atlanta Country Music Hall of  
10 Fame; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie was a member of the Young Farmers FFA String Band in high  
12 school, which won first place in the Georgia State Competition four years in a row; and
- 13 WHEREAS, during his senior year, they performed at the FFA National Convention in  
14 Kansas City in front of an audience of 100,000; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie served as a firefighter from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s in  
16 Gwinnett County, owned a computer store, worked for Fannin County Schools, worked for  
17 ETC, and was a member of the board of directors at Tri-State EMC; and
- 18 WHEREAS, those who knew Mr. Ritchie described him as a gentleman and a great musician,  
19 with a witty sense of humor that will sorely be missed but never forgotten; and

20 WHEREAS, he leaves behind his parents, James and Wanda Sue Ritchie; children, James,  
21 Ryan, Hanna, and Tyler; siblings, Alan, Keith, and Tammy Sue; and granddaughter, Roslin;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep  
24 concern for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he  
25 demonstrated to his family and friends were admired by others; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, he will long be remembered for his love  
27 of family and friendship, and this loyal gentleman and friend will be missed by all who had  
28 the great fortune of knowing him.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Ray Anthony Ritchie and  
31 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ray Anthony  
34 Ritchie.