

House Resolution 542

By: Representative Leverett of the 33<sup>rd</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Howard "Chief" Ellis Jr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, every generation or so in a community, certain individuals come along who  
3 have an inestimable impact on the lives of that generation's youth; and
- 4 WHEREAS, when such individuals grace the life of a community, it is incumbent on the  
5 beneficiaries to recognize and honor these rare and treasured souls; and
- 6 WHEREAS, for the community of Lincolnton, Georgia, Lincoln County Red Devil Football  
7 Coach Howard "Chief" Ellis Jr. is one such rare and treasured individual; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Coach Ellis was born on June 18, 1952, in Woodbine, Georgia, in Camden  
9 County, the third of eight children born to Howard Ellis Sr. and Mildred Ellis; and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1981, Coach Ellis moved to Lincoln County and started his 31 year career  
11 as a coach, educator, and mentor to thousands of Lincoln County students and as a physical  
12 education secondary defensive coordinator for the football team; and

13 WHEREAS, Coach Ellis spent the next 40 years serving as a physical education instructor;  
14 health and weight training instructor; advisor to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; and  
15 coach of the Lincoln County Red Devils football, basketball, golf, and track teams; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Ellis was the first and only Lincoln County head coach to win a state  
17 championship in track and field; and

18 WHEREAS, his many accomplishments also include serving as assistant head coach for nine  
19 state football championships, assistant head coach for numerous region football  
20 championships, and head coach for numerous region basketball and golf championships; he  
21 is also the recipient of the 2018 Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educators Outstanding Educator  
22 Award; and

23 WHEREAS, all the while, Coach Ellis made a real impact on the lives of the student athletes  
24 that he coached and the students he taught; and

25 WHEREAS, for his steadfast devotion to the youth of Lincoln County, the Lincoln County  
26 High School track and field was renamed "The Howard Ellis Track and Field" in a grand  
27 ceremony that celebrated his service to thousands of students and the community at large;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, at this ceremony, the Ellis Committee announced the establishment of the  
30 Howard Ellis Chief Scholarship to serve the students of Lincoln County; and

31 WHEREAS, numerous personal friends also gave testimonials to express their gratitude for  
32 Coach Ellis, describing him as "honorable," "Christ-like," and "a true friend"; and

33 WHEREAS, in addition to these honors, both the City of Lincolnton and Lincoln County  
34 have officially declared November 5 as Chief Day and named Coach Ellis a "Red Devil for  
35 life"; and

36 WHEREAS, councilmen Melvin "Boochie" Harris and Ernie Norman presented Coach Ellis  
37 with an official proclamation on Chief Day on behalf of the City of Lincolnton, and Lincoln  
38 County Commission Chairman Walker Norman presented Coach Ellis with an official  
39 proclamation on behalf of Lincoln County; and

40 WHEREAS, both proclamations hailed Coach Ellis and his 40 years of dedicated service to  
41 the students, parents, and community of Lincoln County; and

42 WHEREAS, Coach Ellis has himself been blessed by his long marriage to his wife, Loucklin,  
43 and his children, Alexander Ellis and Yolando Fuller; and

44 WHEREAS, Coach Ellis has lived his life in such a way as to bestow great blessings on the  
45 children and parents of Lincoln County, and he has shown true and steadfast devotion to his  
46 community; and

47 WHEREAS, such a distinguished career of selfless and devoted service merits a profound  
48 expression of thanks and gratitude.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
50 the members of this body hereby commend and express their profound sense of appreciation  
51 and gratefulness to Howard "Chief" Ellis Jr. for his dedicated service to his community.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
53 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
54 Howard "Chief" Ellis Jr.