

House Resolution 703

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13th, Lumsden of the 12th, and Barton of the 5th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the 2023 Heart of the Community Award recipient, Wesley
2 Walraven; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Wesley Walraven moved to Floyd County in 1970 at the age of eight when his
4 family relocated to the area. His father, Wesley C. Walraven, was the founding academic
5 dean of Georgia Highlands College; and

6 WHEREAS, Wes graduated from Pepperell High School in 1980, received a BBA in finance
7 from the University of Georgia in 1983 and a Master of Management Studies from the
8 Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago, and returned to
9 make Rome his primary residence in 2011; and

10 WHEREAS, Wes is responsible for the fundraising campaign for the Fairview School project
11 and the restoration campaign for the Vann Cabin in Cave Spring; and

12 WHEREAS, he founded the Walraven Family Scholarship at Georgia Highlands College,
13 which has provided full tuition to over 25 Pepperell High School graduates pursuing an
14 Associate of Arts; and

15 WHEREAS, Wes provided financial support to the Desoto Theatre, the Foundation Camp
16 at Georgia Highlands College, Chieftains Museum, Rome Symphony Orchestra, Rome Area
17 Heritage Foundation, Berry College's McAllister Hall Animal Science Building, Oak Hill
18 Council of Rome, Darlington School, Rome Area Council for the Arts, Coosa River Basin
19 Initiative, and the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Georgia; and

20 WHEREAS, Wes currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Trust for Historic
21 Preservation; and

22 WHEREAS, he restored five houses in Rome's "Between the Rivers" district and two in
23 historic Cave Spring and has hosted charity events in support of numerous Rome and Floyd
24 County organizations; and

25 WHEREAS, Wes has provided support to many members of the local community as they
26 faced financial hardship, often arising as a result of medical or addiction related issues.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize Wesley Walraven for his outstanding dedication to the
29 community, commend him as a recipient of the 2023 Heart of the Community Award, and
30 extend the most sincere best wishes for continued success.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
33 Wesley Walraven.