

House Resolution 801

By: Representatives Cox of the 28th, Barrett of the 24th, McDonald of the 26th, Clark of the 100th, Jones of the 25th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mary Helen and Dr. John McGruder; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mary Helen and Dr. John McGruder have exemplified unparalleled dedication
3 and unwavering commitment to their community, leaving an indelible mark through their
4 exceptional contributions; and

5 WHEREAS, Mary Helen McGruder's leadership on the University of North Georgia
6 Foundation Board of Trustees, where she served as vice chair and chair, played a pivotal role
7 in steering the institution through a period of transformative change, including the
8 welcoming of a new president and the consolidation with Gainesville State College; and

9 WHEREAS, under her astute guidance, the University of North Georgia Foundation
10 executed the most successful fund development campaign in the University's history by
11 raising over \$44 million, a feat that irrevocably reshaped the institution and propelled it
12 towards greater heights; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1988, Mary Helen McGruder and her two sisters generously provided 5.8
14 acres of land to Forsyth County, paving the way for the construction of the inaugural Forsyth

15 County Library location, a cornerstone of the community that continues to enrich the lives
16 of its residents; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. John McGruder's distinguished career as a highly respected veterinarian has
18 touched the lives of countless families in and around Forsyth County, where his clinical
19 expertise, compassionate manner, and dedication to the well-being of animals have earned
20 him the highest regard and trust; and

21 WHEREAS, both Mary Helen and Dr. John McGruder have been steadfast and exemplary
22 members and leaders of Cumming First United Methodist Church, best demonstrated by Dr.
23 John's instrumental role in overseeing the church's largest expansion and Mary's strong
24 leadership during a critical period of transition for the congregation; and

25 WHEREAS, Mary Helen and Dr. John McGruder's selfless act of donating 320 acres of land
26 to the Trust for Public Land to preserve Sawnee Mountain for future generations inspired
27 others to join in this noble cause, culminating in the creation of the Sawnee Mountain
28 Preserve, the largest green space park in Forsyth County; and

29 WHEREAS, their founding of the Sawnee Mountain Foundation stands as a testament to
30 their enduring commitment to the well-being and preservation of the natural environment
31 within the Preserve, further enhancing the quality of life for the community; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that these remarkable individuals be
33 appropriately honored.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend Mary Helen and Dr. John McGruder for their many

36 outstanding contributions and decades of service to their community as well as extend
37 sincere best wishes for future health, happiness, and success.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mary
40 Helen and Dr. John McGruder.