

General Assembly

House Resolution 1544

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Honorable Emma Gresham has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital role that she has played in leadership and her deep personal commitment to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, she diligently and conscientiously devoted over two decades of her time, talents, and energy to improving the lives of her neighbors as mayor of the Town of Keysville; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Gresham was born in 1925 in Reidsville, Georgia, the beloved daughter of Reverend Marvin B. Rhodes, an African Methodist Episcopal pastor and teacher, and Ida Rhodes, a church missionary and Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Boggs Academy, Mayor Gresham devoted 32 years to challenging and inspiring the future leaders of this state as an educator in Augusta, teaching second grade and mentally challenged students; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980's, she became involved with Keysville Concerned Citizens, a group seeking better living conditions for the community, and through her work with this group, Mayor Gresham learned that Keysville had been registered as a town and incorporated, yet had not had official leadership in 55 years; and

WHEREAS, determined to improve the lives of her neighbors through public service, Mayor Gresham was elected mayor in 1985, but due to a loophole in the town's charter which prevented an official election, Mayor Gresham served as mayor for only five hours; and

WHEREAS, after several years of community outreach, legal battles, and two Supreme Court cases, Keysville held an election for mayor in 1988, and Mayor Gresham was again recognized by the people as the most fitting person to lead; and

WHEREAS, located 25 miles south of Augusta in Burke County, Keysville is home to an unofficial population of 319 and during Mayor Gresham's tenure established a water system, a waste-water treatment plant, city streetlights, and a health facility and earned the title of a Certified Literate Community; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of this distinguished woman be recognized by dedicating a road in her honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA that the portion of State Route 88 in the city limits of Keysville in Burke County is dedicated as the Mayor Emma Gresham Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect and maintain appropriate signs dedicating the road facilities named in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and Mayor Emma Gresham.


IN HOUSE

Read and Adopted
March 03, 2014


William L. Reilly
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

IN SENATE

Read and Adopted
March 18, 2014


David A. Cook
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

