

Senate Resolution 1072

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Hill of the 4th, Bethel of the 54th, Stone of the 23rd, Millar of the 40th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of John Phinizy Stevens; 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 John Phinizy Stevens on January 28, 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born in Americus, Georgia, in 1929, the beloved son of Morgan and
5 Maggie Sue Stevens; and
- 6 WHEREAS, due to his father's death at an early age, young John with the help of his mother
7 learned to become self-sufficient and very independent; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he enjoyed an excellent education, graduating from Americus High School
9 where he played football and was a runner on the track and field team, completing his
10 education at the Emory campus in Valdosta, and later graduating from Emory University in
11 Atlanta; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he enjoyed a very rewarding career in the financial industry, beginning his
13 banking career with the First National Bank of Atlanta in 1950, and ending his corporate life
14 when he retired as Executive Vice President of the Government Division of Wachovia Bank
15 in 1994; and
- 16 WHEREAS, John also participated in a number of business ventures and business
17 associations, including the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Bankers Association,
18 and many others, and enjoyed rewarding relationships with numerous charitable entities,
19 which among those included work with the Boys & Girls Clubs; and
- 20 WHEREAS, he had a great love of the outdoors and, in particular, enjoyed spending time
21 hunting quail, riding his John Deere tractor, tending to his cows, and playing with his dogs;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, John was an avid and passionate aviator, learning to fly a crop duster at the age
24 of 12 and continuing well into his retirement; and

25 WHEREAS, a thoughtful and hard-working man, his favorite saying was, "Success requires
26 no explanation, failure permits no alibi"; and

27 WHEREAS, while his family and friends mourn his death, he leaves behind a storied legacy
28 of working with elected officials during a critical era in Georgia legislative history, bringing
29 pre-modern Georgia into the modern age up to the year 2010; and

30 WHEREAS, it is known that John's years of service at the capitol were never for personal
31 gain but for the betterment and benefit of all citizens in our good state, and he will always
32 be remembered for his unyielding love for his family, his state, and his nation; and

33 WHEREAS, John was a proud family man who enjoyed his children and grandchildren and
34 adored his wife, Joyce Carter Stevens, to whom he was married for over 28 years.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 honor and pay tribute to the late John Phinzy Stevens for his years of efficient, effective,
37 unselfish, and dedicated service to the State of Georgia and join his family in celebrating the
38 life of a great Georgian.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Joyce Carter
41 Stevens.