

Senate Resolution 1143

By: Senators Williams of the 19th and Hill of the 4th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Charles and Deborah Tillman; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the town of Tison was a center of commerce during the later part of the 19th
3 Century through the 1940s, with the Padgett family at the center, and Tison Crossroads, at
4 the intersection of Georgia Highway 169 and County Road 293, consisted of the Padgett
5 home place, two commissary stores with post offices, a barrel-making business, lumber mill,
6 turpentine business, and grist mill; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1820 three members of the Padgett family settled on the banks of
8 Watermelon Creek Vineyard and began to forge a legacy that influenced agriculture,
9 business, and spiritual life in Tattnall County; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2003 Charles Tillman, an 8th generation descendant from the original Padgett
11 family, and his wife, Deborah, purchased the Padgett home place and adjacent acreage to
12 include the late 19th Century barns, commissary store, and additional outbuildings and
13 embarked on their restoration; they have plans to acquire the second commissary store and
14 are in the application process to receive a National Historic Registry designation for the area
15 which contains the original two stores, home place, and adjacent barnyard and outbuildings;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, plans for the restoration will incorporate commercial enterprises in addition to
18 the expansion of the current Farm Tour that is offered by Watermelon Creek Vineyard, the
19 full service Georgia Farm Winery that Charles and Deborah opened in May of 2012 on the
20 banks of Watermelon Creek. The winery is a silver member of Georgia Grown and has
21 Georgia Agritourism signage on Highway 301 and 23/57 in Glennville.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 commend Charles and Deborah Tillman on their efforts to preserve the history of Tison
24 Crossroads in Tattnall County.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
26 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Charles and Deborah Tillman.