

## Senate Resolution 1217

By: Senators Jackson of the 24th, Stone of the 23rd, Kirk of the 13th and Mullis of the 53rd

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending former Representative Bob Beckham; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, except for a short hiatus in 1960 when he supported Richard Nixon for  
3 president, former Representative Bob Beckham was a dedicated Democrat who was active  
4 in political scenes; and
- 5 WHEREAS, this all changed in 1964 when he was confined to a hospital room due to a  
6 sports injury and was stuck watching the Republican National Convention (RNC) when  
7 Barry Goldwater was running; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the RNC ran ads encouraging the audience to join the Republican Party during  
9 the convention, so Mr. Beckham connected with several local Republicans and joined the  
10 Richmond County Republican Party (RCRP); and
- 11 WHEREAS, in 1965, he was elected chairman of the RCRP, and as such, he founded the  
12 Junior Chamber of Commerce and brought many young people into the party; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mr. Beckham resigned from the RCRP in 1971 in order to run for a seat in the  
14 Georgia House of Representatives, and during the six years he served in the Georgia General  
15 Assembly, his legislative achievements included establishing an election board independent  
16 of politicians and passing the Georgia Welfare Reform Act; and
- 17 WHEREAS, former Representative Beckham's bill required welfare recertification every 90  
18 days instead of every three years, and upon its passage, it became the first Republican bill  
19 to pass the Georgia General Assembly; and
- 20 WHEREAS, in 1979, he moved to Columbia County and joined the Columbia County  
21 Republican Party Executive Board where he served as the Chairman of the Election  
22 Committee with the purpose of recruiting Republicans to run for elective offices; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1988, Mr. Beckham brought in Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, raised  
24 campaign funds, and recruited candidates to challenge three county commissioners and won,  
25 and two years later, he successfully recruited two more candidates to challenge the remaining  
26 incumbent Democratic commissioners; and

27 WHEREAS, due largely to Mr. Beckham's decades of hard work, the Columbia County  
28 Republican Party occupies every constitutional and partisan elective office in the county, and  
29 during the process, Mr. Beckham has mentored many leaders and elected officials of  
30 Columbia County, including Senator Bill Jackson.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 recognize and commend former Representative Bob Beckham and extend their most sincere  
33 wishes for continued health and happiness.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to former  
36 Representative Bob Beckham.