

Senate Resolution 474

By: Senators Jones of the 10th, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Millar of the 40th and Henson of the 41st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Buck Godfrey upon the grand occasion of his retirement;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Southwest DeKalb High School's football coach, Mr. Buck Godfrey, has long
4 been recognized by the citizens of this state for his fierce dedication to seeing young athletes
5 succeed both academically and on the field; and

6 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
7 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced
8 dramatically by the 273 victories and final record of 273-89-1 he carries as part of his 30 year
9 football coaching legacy at Southwest DeKalb; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Godfrey has coached 272 athletes who continued to play football in college
11 and eight players who played in the National Football League; and

12 WHEREAS, his victory total ranks 13th in state history, third in metro Atlanta, and first
13 among African American coaches in Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Godfrey was raised in Charleston, South Carolina, was a star baseball
15 player at Delaware State University, and taught school in New York City before getting a
16 master's degree at Atlanta University; and

17 WHEREAS, he accepted the role as Head Coach for the Southwest DeKalb Panthers in 1983,
18 and under his direction, the team quickly rose as the dominant football program in DeKalb,
19 reaching the state semifinals in his first two seasons and seven more times before they
20 achieved the GHSA Class AAAA crown in 1995; and

21 WHEREAS, a man of conviction and talent, Mr. Godfrey has used his skills as a former
22 English teacher to put into words his many struggles in both his career and personal life in

23 his published works, *Moods of a Black Man*, a book of poetry which explores the frustrations
24 associated with segregation and integration; *Songs For My Father*, another collection of
25 poetry which he dedicated to his father; and *The Team Nobody Would Play*, a recollection
26 of the struggles he experienced as part of an all-black youth baseball All-Star team on which
27 he played in 1955; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Godfrey is currently finishing his fourth book, *My Friend Eddie Robinson*,
29 which depicts his friendship with the late Grambling State University coach; and

30 WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Atlanta Hall of Fame on June 12, 2010, for his
31 superlative direction and diligence in helping the Southwest DeKalb Panthers create and
32 sustain a reputation for excellence; and

33 WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Georgia Coaches Hall of Fame by the Georgia Athletic
34 Coaches Association in 2014.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE that the members of this body
36 commend Mr. Buck Godfrey for his effective, unselfish, and dedicated leadership as the
37 football coach for Southwest DeKalb High School; congratulate him upon the grand occasion
38 of his retirement; and extend to him their most sincere best wishes for continued health and
39 happiness.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Buck Godfrey.