

Senate Resolution 832

By: Senators Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th and Anavitarte of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Robert Stebbins, John Rudert, and Woodcraft of Atlanta for
2 their historic contribution to the Georgia Senate; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Robert Stebbins began woodworking in the 1970s at the age of 12 in his
4 grandfather's basement, assisted with repairs of wood furnishings in his father's antique
5 business, and, in 2007, went to work exploring his woodworking talents at Woodcraft of
6 Atlanta; and

7 WHEREAS, John Rudert has been working with wood for more than 40 years, is a master
8 craftsman, and is widely known for his skill in turning wood on a lathe; and

9 WHEREAS, the gavel has been used by legislative bodies since the founding of our country.
10 According to tradition, Vice President of the United States John Adams used a gavel as a call
11 to order in the first United States Senate in New York in 1789; and

12 WHEREAS, the first session of the Georgia Senate was called to order in 1789 with the use
13 of a gavel; and

14 WHEREAS, the gavel, sound block, and pedestal currently in use in the chamber of the
15 Georgia Senate date back to circa 1920 and have been used by numerous figures of historic
16 significance; and

17 WHEREAS, the gavel is frequently used with significant force to garner the attention of a
18 loud and, at times, an unruly Senate body; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2022, noting the need to replace the Senate's gavel and sound block and
20 repair its historic pedestal, the Secretary of the Senate turned to two of Georgia's finest
21 woodcrafters: Robert Stebbins and John Rudert for help; and

22 WHEREAS, Robert Stebbins and his colleague John Rudert agreed to take on the project.
23 Stebbins repaired and refinished the pedestal and Rudert crafted two new gavels, made of
24 black walnut, and two new sound blocks, made of maple with a cherry finish, just in time for
25 the convening of the 2023 session of the Georgia General Assembly; and

26 WHEREAS, this resolution was adopted by the Georgia Senate with a hearty bang of the
27 gavel provided by these two gracious and talented men.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that a heartfelt thanks be
29 extended to Robert Stebbins and John Rudert for their willingness to help the Senate in its
30 time of need, for the excellent craftsmanship that they brought to this unique and historic
31 project, and for their contribution to the woodcraft industry in Georgia.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Robert Stebbins,
34 John Rudert, and Woodcraft of Atlanta.