

Senate Resolution 849

By: Senators Summers of the 13th, Goodman of the 8th, Watson of the 11th, Anderson of the 24th, Burns of the 23rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Bessie Willingham Tift; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on March 6, 2024, the Georgia Women of Achievement inducted Bessie
3 Willingham Tift into its Hall of Fame alongside three other honorees; and
- 4 WHEREAS, as the co-founder of the Tift County Library System and the Tifton Twentieth
5 Library Club, she was highly respected by her fellow citizens for the innumerable hours of
6 time and energy she dedicated to advocating for educational resources in South Georgia and
7 beyond; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in addition to her exemplary service to the community, she further donated
9 funds to schools-in-need such as her alma mater, Monroe Female College, which was
10 renamed in 1907 to Bessie Tift College in her honor; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Bessie gave inspiration to many through her high ideals, morals, and deep
12 concern for her fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding she
13 demonstrated to her family and friends were admired by others; and

14 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
15 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she made of her life,
16 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

17 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Bessie will long be remembered for her
18 love of family and friendship as well as her distinguished service to her community.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
20 join in honoring the life and memory of Bessie Willingham Tift upon her induction into the
21 Georgia Women of Achievement Hall of Fame for her many wonderful contributions on
22 behalf of South Georgia.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
25 Bessie Willingham Tift.