

Senate Resolution 865

By: Senator Robertson of the 29th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Senator Ed Harbison; and for other purposes.

- 2 WHEREAS, Ed Harbison has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital
3 role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the
4 citizens of Georgia; and

- 5 WHEREAS, he began his broadcasting career at age 17 at WRMA (Montgomery) in 1959
6 by reading football game results on the "Teentime" show; and

- 7 WHEREAS, after returning home from serving four years in the United States Marines and
8 receiving a Purple Heart during the Vietnam War, he enrolled in the Career Academy School
9 of Broadcasting in Atlanta; and

- 10 WHEREAS, he trained at WQXI, covering local events and interviewing a variety of
11 newsmakers on the political spectrum, from Lester Maddox to Jane Fonda; and

- 12 WHEREAS, in 1972, he arrived in Columbus as news and public affairs director for WOKS
13 and WFXE, winning awards from the National Association of Black Journalists and United
14 Press International for excellence in broadcast journalism; and

15 WHEREAS, he broadcast high school football games with Cliff Rutledge and Columbus
16 College basketball games with Jimmy Griggs. Borden Black hired him as an anchor for
17 WLTZ-TV in 1982, when he became the first Black newscaster to host an evening program
18 in Columbus and helped the newscast win an Associated Press award; and

19 WHEREAS, he returned to radio as assistant station manager and news director at WAGH,
20 where he hosted talk shows with Gloria Strode and Edgar Champagne; and

21 WHEREAS, he says that the joy of broadcasting emanates from the "chance to communicate
22 with people. If you really care about what you're doing, I think you feel satisfied that you
23 are doing a worthwhile job that's a worthwhile service. It's just the feeling of exhilaration
24 of bringing the news, but you've got to maintain the facts of the story, as opposed to putting
25 too much of yourself and your opinion into it."; and

26 WHEREAS, Ed Harbison's significant organizational and leadership talents, remarkable
27 patience and diplomacy, keen sense of vision, and sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of
28 this state have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

29 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
30 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

31 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
32 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize and commend Senator Ed Harbison for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and

35 dedicated public service to the State of Georgia and extend the most sincere best wishes for
36 continued health and happiness.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Senator Ed
39 Harbison.