

Senate Resolution 872

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Davenport of the 44th, Seay of the 34th, Parent of the 42nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Bolden; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Reverend Willie Bolden; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden began his religious journey under the influence of Dr. Martin
5 Luther King, Jr., who convinced him to divert his energy from playing pool to fighting for
6 equal rights with the Bible and a book written by Mahatma Gandhi; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden began to work with Dr. King and worked in every major Civil
8 Rights Movement across the country, including Selma, Alabama, and St. Augustine, Florida,
9 which was the bloodiest movement of the entire 1960s; and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was in charge of bringing the Mule Train from Marx, Mississippi, to
11 Washington, D.C., for the Poor People Campaign, and he organized 16 wagons and 50,000
12 people for the 500 mile journey; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Reverend Bolden was inducted into the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame
14 in 2012 and received the Humanitarian Award on July 19, 2014; and
- 15 WHEREAS, he continued his activism through speaking engagements, including a trip to
16 Ferguson, Mississippi, to teach nonviolence; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
18 States Marine Corps, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans; and
- 19 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Reverend Bolden was an associate minister at
20 Bethlehem Baptist Church; and

21 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
22 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
23 family and friends were admired by others; and

24 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
25 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
26 made this world a better place in which to live; and

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Reverend Willie Bolden will long be
28 remembered for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal activist, pastor, teacher, and
29 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 join in honoring the life and memory of Reverend Willie Bolden and express their deepest
32 and most sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
35 Reverend Willie Bolden.