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This Week in the Senate

January 30 - February 2, 2017



Recognizing Great Georgians

The Senate reconvened on Monday, January 30 and met for four days this week, taking us to day 12 of our 40 day session.

We welcomed many special guests and honored a number of outstanding Georgians for their public service. On Tuesday, the Senate stood in solidarity with the families of two brave men, Sergeant Patrick Sondron and Deputy Daryl Smallwood of Peach County, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Senator John F. Kennedy (R – Macon) presented their families with copies of Senate Resolutions commending their lives and careers. We also recognized the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, particularly coastal broadcasters, for alerting Georgians to Hurricane Matthew and assisting in implementation of the evacuation. Lives were no doubt saved by their efforts.

Committees got down to work holding hearings on bills they have been assigned to consider. The Senate took up two bills on Thursday as well as adopted the adjournment resolution for the rest of session. We passed Senate Bill 85 allowing limited direct sales by craft breweries and Senate Bill 70 extending the sunset date of the Georgia Hospital Financing Program.

Under the new adjournment resolution, we will reconvene on Tuesday, February 7 for Day 13. Day 28, Crossover Day, will be Friday, March 3 and Day 40, when we adjourn Sine Die, will be on Thursday, March 30.

I hope you enjoy the weekend. Rise Up!

Sen. David J. Shafer
President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Golf Day at the Senate

Sen. Matt Brass (R – Newnan) sponsored Senate Resolution 96, recognizing January 30, 2017, as Golf Day in Georgia. The state of Georgia has over 110 golf communities and its success has contributed enormously to the vitality of Georgia's economy. With 35 ranges and 401 golf courses, the golf industry in Georgia has generated \$936.4 billion in revenue. – **SR 96**

Recognizing Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

Sen. Lester Jackson (D – Savannah) recognized Bishop Reginald T. Jackson of the Episcopal AME Church for his service and dedication to the Methodist Church and its surrounding communities. Bishop Jackson is regarded as one of the most influential African Americans of his time, and he thanked the Senate for recognizing his efforts. This year the church will be celebrating its 201st anniversary, and will also recognize Bishop Jackson.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

Remembering Sergeant Patrick Michael Sondron and Deputy Daryl Wayne Smallwood

Senate Resolutions 59 and 61, sponsored by Sen. John F. Kennedy (R – Macon), commemorate the lives of Sergeant Patrick Michael Sondron and Deputy Daryl Wayne Smallwood who were both killed in the line of duty in November 2016. Both officers served at the Peach County Sheriff's Office where they will be remembered for dedicating their lives to protect the lives of others. The memories of Sergeant Sondron and Deputy Smallwood will live on through their families, friends and the Peach County community. – *SR 59 & 61*



Skin Cancer Awareness Day at the Capitol

Senator Dean Burke (R – Bainbridge) sponsored Senate Resolution 119, recognizing January 31, 2017, as Skin Cancer Awareness Day at the Capitol. Melanoma and other skin cancers are some of the most preventable, yet fatal forms of cancer. Skin cancer accounts for more than 50 percent of all cancers combined including breast, lung and prostate cancer. The Georgia Society of Dermatologists and the Atlanta Dermatological Association promote clinical practice, education and research in dermatological medicine. The Skin Care Awareness Network Foundation creates public awareness of the dangers of excessive or unprotected direct exposure to the sun and works to educate the public about ways to lessen the chances of developing skin cancer. The Senate encourages all Georgians to spread awareness. – *SR 119*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Jackson-Butts County Day

Sen. Burt Jones (R – Jackson) sponsored Senate Resolution 46 recognizes February 1, 2017, as Jackson-Butts County Day at the Capitol. Jackson-Butts County is home to Fresh Air Barbeque, the oldest pit-cooked barbeque restaurant in the state, and Indian Springs State Park, one of the oldest parks in the United States. The county also boasts Dauset Trails, a nonprofit environmental education center that provides environmental programs for groups with 1,400 acres of scenic woods, fields, creeks, and lakes for visitors to enjoy. – *SR 46*

Columbus Day at the Capitol

Senate Resolution 50, sponsored by Sen. Ed Harbison (D – Columbus), recognizes February 1, 2017, as Columbus Day at the Capitol. Columbus was the first consolidated government in Georgia and the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce is the first chamber in Georgia to receive a 5-star rating. Columbus is also home to fantastic visitor attractions, white water rafting, education excellence and beautiful natural landscapes. – *SR 50*



Clark Atlanta Day at the Capitol

Sen. Horacena Tate (D – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 109 recognizing February 1, 2017, as Clark Atlanta University Day at the Capitol. The Senate welcomed Clark Atlanta University (CAU) president Ronald A. Johnson to the Chamber, where he spoke about the university's accomplishments. CAU hosts the Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development and is the only Historically Black College and University that is a member of the Georgia Research Alliance. CAU was established in 1988 and is known for its mass media arts program and producing Jazz 91.9 FM-WCLK. – **SR 109**



Civil Air Patrol Recognized at the Georgia State Capitol

Senate Resolution 115, sponsored by Sen. Hunter Hill (R – Atlanta), commends the Civil Air Patrol for their services to the citizens of Georgia. Colonel Richard J. Greenwood joined Sen. Hill and gave remarks on the behalf of his organization, focusing on their work aiding local communities and assisting with natural disasters. The Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, as a volunteer organization to support the United States military. – **SR 115**

Research Day at the State Capitol

Senate Resolution 122, sponsored by Sen. Fran Millar (R – Atlanta), recognizes February 1, 2017 as Research Day at the Capitol. SR 122 commends Georgia's four public research universities including the University of Georgia, Augusta University, Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia State University for their contributions to higher education in the areas of healthcare, education technology and research. The Senate welcomed all four presidents from the universities to the Senate who gave remarks regarding their appreciation of support from the state of Georgia. – **SR 122**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Hospital Financing Program

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Bill 70, which would extend the sunset provision for the provider payment fees of operating a hospital until June 30, 2020. These fees are necessary to obtain federal funding for Medicaid financing. SB 70 passed by a vote of 50 to 3. – **SB 70**

Off Premise Sales of Malt Beverages

Sen. Rick Jeffares (R – McDonough) sponsored Senate Bill 85, which would allow breweries to sell malt beverages directly to consumers for on and off premises consumption. Breweries will be able to sell up to 288 ounces per consumer per day for off premises consumption and will be permitted to sell up to 3,000 barrels per year for consumption both on and off premises. Beverages can be sold any time or day so long as alcohol sales are permitted by the county or municipality. SB 85 passed by a vote of 49 to 2. – **SB 85**

Saluting Dallas Gay

Sen. Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 13, saluting Dallas Gay for his public service, leadership and dedication to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia. Mr. Gay currently serves as a member on the board of Northeast Georgia Health Systems. He played a vital role in the "Think About It" campaign. Mr. Gay has gone above and beyond in his fight and treatment of the negative effects of prescription drugs, and has risen the bar for public service. – **SR 13**



Recognizing Dr. Gil Watson

Sen. Hunter Hill (R – Atlanta) sponsored Senate Resolution 116, commending Dr. Gil Watson for his retirement after 23 years of dedicated service to the Northside United Methodist Church (UMC). Dr. Watson has been serving as senior pastor of Northside UMC in Atlanta since 1994. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in history and political science at Oglethorpe University, followed by a Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology and a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Dr. Watson and his wife, Carol Watson, have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. – **SR 116**



The Georgia Senate will reconvene for **DAY 13** at 10:00 a.m. on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.**