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ALL ARCHIVES FOR THE
2018 SPECIAL SESSION,
INCLUDING COMMITTEE
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This Week in the Senate Special Session



Assistance for Southwest GA After Hurricane Michael

The Georgia Senate convened on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, for the beginning of a special session of the 154th Georgia General Assembly. The special session was ordered by Governor Nathan Deal to provide emergency funding to state agencies and local governments following Hurricane Michael. In addition to ensuring our citizens in Southwest Georgia receive necessary funding to rebuild from the biggest devastation our state has seen in recent history, we addressed two pieces of legislation regarding the jet fuel tax exemption and income tax

credit for lost timberland property.

But I would be remiss to not mention this, on Tuesday we recognized the lives of two citizens who made Georgia a better state and I had the privilege to call them friends – Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice P. Harris Hines and State Representative John Meadows. Former Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Hines was a talented jurist, loving husband, father and grandfather, and a wonderful friend. He devoted his life to the service of others as a judge for more than 40 years and we were lucky to have his leadership in several capacities. The Honorable John Meadows exemplified what a true Statesman should be – someone who puts the needs of his constituents and community first. The distinguished House Rules Chairman served a long, respected career and always treated those around him with kindness, while never wavering when it came to doing the right thing for all citizens of Georgia. On behalf of the Georgia Senate, I would like to extend condolences to their families, friends and all who had the pleasure to know them. Both of these great men will be truly missed on Capitol Hill and across the State of Georgia.

In addition to recognizing the lives of Justice Hines and Chairman Meadows, we had several special guests visit the Senate including Lt. Governor-Elect Geoff Duncan. He addressed the body and expressed his enthusiasm about joining us in the chamber in January. Additionally, we had a special group of political science students visit us from Cherokee Bluff High School in Hall County. These students had a chance to leave Hall County to continue their education at another school but instead chose to remain loyal to Cherokee Bluff. I respect their commitment to our local community and know their future is bright.

I want to extend my appreciation to my colleagues for your time and service to the state of Georgia, not just during this week, but each and every day. I truly believe we are making a positive impact on all Georgians and I am proud of the work you all have done. Along with my colleagues, I want to thank all of the staff for their patience and hard work. You all are truly what makes the Senate run and we cannot thank you enough. Thank you for always going the extra mile.

I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, laughter and relaxation. If our office can be of any assistance, please reach out. I look forward to working with you all again and seeing you on the first day of the 2019 Legislative Session – Monday, January 14, 2019.

Senator Butch Miller

President Pro Tempore, Georgia Senate

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Senate Honors Life of Former Chief Justice P. Harris Hines

Senate Resolution 4EX, sponsored by Sen. Bill Cowser (R – Athens), remembers the life of the Honorable P. Harris Hines and his dedication to serving the citizens of Georgia. Justice Hines began his legal career in 1974 and went on to serve on the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1995, and was elected Chief Justice in 2016. Chief Justice Hines was also recognized for his character inside and out of his work, serving as an elder and clerk at his church, as well as being voted Cobb County's "Most Admired Community Leader". – **SR 4EX**

Bleckley County FFA Ag Technology and Mechanics Team Visits the Senate

Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry) sponsored Senate Resolution 5EX which congratulates the Bleckley County FFA Agriculture Mechanics and Technology Team on their FFA Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems Career Development Event win at the 91st National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. – **SR 5EX**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Lt. Governor-Elect Geoff Duncan Visits the Senate

The Senate welcomed Lieutenant Governor-elect Geoff Duncan to the Georgia Senate Chamber on Wednesday. Lt. Governor-elect Duncan introduced himself to the Senate and members of the gallery, emphasizing his eagerness to join the body and continuing the success of the Senate moving forward.



Senate Remembers Georgia House Representative John Meadows

Senate President Pro Tempore Butch Miller (R – Gainesville) sponsored Senate Resolution 6EX, honoring the life of Georgia House Representative John Meadows. Rep. Meadows previously served in the United States Marine Corps and later as a member of the Calhoun City Council, Mayor of Calhoun and represented the Georgia House's 5th District for six terms. Most recently, Rep. John Meadows served as the House Rules Committee Chairman. In addition to his years of public service, he was also remembered in the General Assembly for the kind relationships he made with those he encountered. – **SR 6EX**



Senate Honors Long-time Member, Sen. Fran Millar

Senate Resolution 7EX, sponsored by Sen. John Albers (R – Roswell), honors Sen. Fran Millar (R – Dunwoody) on his 20 years of public service in the Georgia General Assembly. Sen. Millar was elected to the Georgia House in 1998 and the Georgia Senate in 2010, where he currently serves as the Higher Education Committee Chairman. Additionally, Sen. Millar serves on the Governor's Education Reform Commission, the Governor's Child Welfare Reform Commission, the Southern Regional Education Board and the Board for Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. – **SR 7EX**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15 – LEGISLATIVE DAY THREE AND COMMITTEE WORK DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Gordon Lee High School Boys' Golf Team Honored

Sen. Jeff Mullis (R – Chickamauga) sponsored Senate Resolution 8EX which recognizes the Gordon Lee High School Boys' Golf Team for winning the 2018 Georgia High School Association Class A state golf championship. – **SR 8EX**

Recognizing C.L. Tidwell

Senate Resolution 10EX, sponsored by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R – White), honors C.L. Tidwell on his lifetime of community service. Mr. Tidwell has hosted a monthly breakfast in Cartersville for more than 30 years for citizens and public officials to gather and discuss current issues. – **SR 10EX**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Amended Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

Sen. Jack Hill (R – Reidsville) carried House Bill 1EX which amends the Fiscal Year 2019 budget to include an appropriation of \$270 million for Hurricane Michael disaster relief. These funds will be utilized in Southwest Georgia where Hurricane Michael left a path of destruction resulting in an approximate \$2.5 billion loss to the timber and agriculture industries. HB 1EX passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **HB 1EX**

Income Tax Credit for Owners of Timberland Destroyed by Hurricane Michael

House Bill 4EX, carried by Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry), would allow timberland owners in the 28 counties outlined in the governor's Nov. 6, 2018 disaster relief order to apply for an income tax credit worth 100 percent of timberland's value lost to Hurricane Michael. The income tax credit has a cap of \$200 million and the credit would be individually capped at \$400 per eligible acre of qualified timberland. The Department of Revenue will be responsible for accepting and approving applications, as well as crediting taxpayers whose applications are approved. HB 4EX passed with a vote of 52 to 0. – **HB 4EX**

Jet Fuel Sales and Use Tax Suspension Approved and Extended

Sen. Larry Walker (R – Perry) carried House Bill 5EX which would approve and extend the jet fuel sales and use tax suspension, ordered by Governor Nathan Deal, until June 30, 2019. Additionally, it would prevent the governor from suspending the sales and use tax on jet fuel unless a state of emergency is declared. HB 5EX passed with a vote of 43 to 9. – **HB 5EX**





The Georgia Senate has **ADJOURNED SINE DIE!**