

Senate Resolution 605

By: Senator Cheeks of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending and congratulating Georgia's own welterweight world champion Vernon
2 Forrest; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, raised by his mother, Mildred Forrest, who encouraged his vision and
4 determination, Vernon Forrest began his pursuit of pugilistic perfection early in life; and

5 WHEREAS, this native son of Augusta, Georgia, commenced his boxing career with the
6 Augusta Boxing Club at age nine and continued his training there until he entered the
7 Olympic Education Program at age 18; and

8 WHEREAS, Vernon cut a swath through the amateur ranks, compiling an amazing record
9 of 225 wins and only 16 losses while garnering eight Georgia State Amateur Championships,
10 a Gold Medal in the 1991 USA Amateur Championship, a Gold Medal in the 1992 USA
11 Olympic Trials, a Gold Medal in the 1992 USA Olympic Box-Off, and a Gold Medal in the
12 1992 World Amateur Championship, and he earned a position on the 1992 USA Olympic
13 Boxing Team by defeating rival Shane Mosely for the number one spot; and

14 WHEREAS, since he launched his professional career in November of 1992, he has
15 continued to demonstrate to faithful boxing fans his desire and ability to challenge the sport's
16 elite, and his relentless pursuit of excellence has resulted in an astonishing record of 34 wins,
17 26 by way of knockout, without a single loss; and

18 WHEREAS, throughout his professional career, he has executed his craft with prodigious
19 prowess and precision and has established himself as a fearsome combination puncher who
20 punishes his opponents while patiently setting them up for the knockout via his devastating
21 right hand; and

22 WHEREAS, Vernon Forrest is a fierce competitor who clearly believes in answering
23 opportunity's knock, and he did so on Saturday, January 26, 2002, by stepping into the ring

1 with WBC welterweight champion "Sugar" Shane Mosely (38-0, with 35 knockouts) and
2 by leaving it after having accomplished one of boxing's biggest ever upset victories; and

3 WHEREAS, these two professionally undefeated athletes, whom many regard as the
4 personification of excellence in boxing, honored their sport and profession with an incredible
5 display of strength, skill, determination, and endurance -- but someone's "0" had to go; and

6 WHEREAS, Vernon's astonishing display of skill – his relentless jabs, pinpoint uppercuts,
7 and Hearn-like right-hand bombs – catapulted him into boxing's elite upper echelon, where
8 he is now recognized as a powerful contender for the highly-coveted, fan-bestowed
9 designation: Pound-for-Pound Best in the World; and

10 WHEREAS, Vernon Forrest epitomizes the courage, determination, leadership, and character
11 necessary to attain excellence in athletic prowess and performance and to achieve success
12 as an individual and a citizen; and

13 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the superlative skills and outstanding
14 accomplishments of this renowned ring warrior be recognized appropriately.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
16 commend Vernon Forrest for his unprecedented athletic performance, congratulate him upon
17 his attainment of world welterweight champion, and join the citizens of this state in thanking
18 him for bringing the championship belts to Georgia and wishing him all possible success as
19 he begins the defense of his boxing title.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
21 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Vernon Forrest.