

Senate Resolution 937

By: Senator Ragan of the 11th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Alice Coachman; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the determination of the American spirit can be seen in the life of Alice  
3 Coachman; and

4 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman overcame the effects of segregation to win 25 national titles  
5 in track and field; and

6 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman used the back roads of Georgia as her training field, devising  
7 all sorts of makeshift setups to jump over while running barefoot; and

8 WHEREAS, in London, England, in 1948, during the first Olympics held after World War  
9 II, Alice Coachman broke the previous high jump world record; and

10 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman was America's first African American woman to win an  
11 Olympic gold medal in track and field; and

12 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman's success challenged the long held assumption about women's  
13 physical ability to participate in track and field; and

14 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman's achievements opened the doors for the success of  
15 generations to follow, which would include three-time gold medalist Wilma Rudolph and her  
16 Tigerbell teammates; and

17 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman continued her participation in track and field as a teacher,  
18 coach, trainer, and spokesperson; and

1 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman has been honored with prestigious membership in eight halls  
2 of fame including the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of  
3 Fame, and the Albany Sports Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman has passed the torch of opportunity to other American women;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Alice Coachman is being recognized by the National Women's History Project  
7 as a 2002 honoree as a Woman Sustaining the American Spirit.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
9 commend Alice Coachman for her many achievements and her contributions to the welfare  
10 of this state.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Alice Coachman.