

Senate Resolution 994

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Stephens of the 51st, Price of the 56th, Guhl of the 45th, Shafer of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring Senator Joe Burton; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Honorable Joe Burton is the esteemed 5th District Senator representing
3 portions of DeKalb and Gwinnett counties in the Georgia State Senate; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was first elected to the Senate in 1982 after serving ten years in the Georgia
5 House of Representatives; and
- 6 WHEREAS, among Senator Burton's long list of legislative achievements is the initiation
7 of a Senate study on the education of preschool children with special needs which became
8 part of the national survey, leading to federal legislation requiring states to address the
9 problems, he was instrumental in passing legislation to ensure that educators have the
10 training to identify and educate children with special needs; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he is justly proud of legislation in Georgia requiring barrier-free access to
12 public buildings, designated handicapped parking spaces, and curb cuts; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Senator Burton's tireless efforts in the General Assembly and in his community
14 have been honored by the Association of Handicapped Student Service Programs in
15 Post-Secondary Education, the Easter Seal Society, and Birthright International; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he is a member of the Goodwill Industries Advisory Board, the Salvation Army
17 Advisory Board, and the board of Friends of Disabled Adults, which gives free wheelchairs
18 to disabled citizens; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he has donated more than 20 gallons of blood to the American Red Cross; and
- 20 WHEREAS, his life journey began in Techwood Homes and the Sheltering Arms Child Care
21 Center, and has encompassed earning a degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology,

1 answering his country's call to defend freedom as a bomber navigator in World War II,
2 marriage to Bessie Walraven, rearing a fine family of four children, beginning a successful
3 business, and providing stellar leadership in the General Assembly.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
5 honor the many legislative and personal achievements of Senator Joe Burton, and recognize
6 with respect his many compassionate battles on behalf of persons with disabilities, battered
7 women, children embroiled in difficult custody disputes, and charitable organizations and
8 institutions.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Senator Joe Burton.