

Senate Resolution 99

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Paying tribute to Horace King, Master Covered Bridge Builder; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Horace King was a former slave who rose to a position of prominence and
3 power as a result of his extraordinary genius and craftsmanship as a master builder of more
4 than 100 covered bridges throughout Georgia and neighboring states; and
- 5 WHEREAS, he was born in South Carolina in 1807 and was fortunate to have as his second
6 owner, John Godwin, an entrepreneur who studied bridge building with some of the leading
7 New England experts of the time; and together they built the first bridge across the
8 Chattahoochee River, a 560-foot-long covered bridge that connected Columbus with Phenix
9 City (then known as Girard) and was crucial to the development of the region; and
- 10 WHEREAS, King achieved his legal freedom in 1846 and forever valued Godwin's training
11 that enabled him to succeed as a master covered bridge builder in Alabama, Mississippi,
12 Tennessee, and Georgia where only one of his bridges remains in Meriwether County; and
- 13 WHEREAS, King was highly respected and quite literate and after the Civil War, he served
14 four years in the Alabama State Legislature and is credited with building the magnificent
15 self-supporting wooden staircase featured in the Alabama State Capitol; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Horace King was buried in an unmarked grave in LaGrange, Georgia, but the
17 accomplishments and contributions of this brilliant builder are a living legacy of his talent.
- 18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body pays tribute to
19 Horace King and respectfully acknowledges the historic significance of this master builder.
- 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 the family of Horace King.