

Senate Resolution 315

By: Senator Jackson of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Byron Herbert Reece; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Byron Herbert Reece produced an enduring body of poetry and fiction from the
3 sounds and spirits of his North Georgia homeland; and

4 WHEREAS, his five volumes of verse draw deeply from the lyrical wellsprings of nature and
5 the Bible, twin legacies of an upbringing in the agricultural uplands of Union County near
6 Blairsville, and his two novels are remarkable regional portraits, one a mountain family
7 drama of overland journey to Old Testament rhythms and the other a morality play of a small
8 town lynching; and

9 WHEREAS, Reece was a bright and solitary schoolboy who graduated from Blairsville High
10 School and grew up in such rural isolation that he never saw a car until he was over eight
11 years old; and

12 WHEREAS, he attended Young Harris College and taught school intermittently between
13 1935 and 1942 producing poem after poem while caring for his ill parents and managing the
14 family farm; and

15 WHEREAS, he won the *American Poet* magazine's annual poetry award in 1943 and by 1952
16 had received a Pulitzer Prize nomination for his poetry, had been profiled in *Newsweek*
17 magazine, and had been tendered a poet-in-residence position at UCLA; and

18 WHEREAS, he received the Georgia Writers Association literary achievement award five
19 times and served as the poet-in-residence at both Young Harris College and Emory
20 University; and

21 WHEREAS, a play inspired by his writings, "The Reach of Song," was declared the official
22 drama of the State of Georgia in 1990.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 recognize the tremendous literary contributions to this state made by Byron Herbert Reece.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
4 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Byron Herbert Reece.