

House Resolution 565

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 28th and Richardson of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Clarence Thomas Tribute Commission; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Honorable Clarence Thomas was born in the Pinpoint community of Georgia
3 near the City of Savannah on June 23, 1948; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he attended the Immaculate Conception Seminary, graduated cum laude from
5 Holy Cross College, and graduated from Yale Law School; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Missouri, worked as
7 an attorney with the Monsanto Company, served as Legislative Assistant to United States
8 Senator John Danforth, and served as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the United
9 States Department of Education; and
- 10 WHEREAS, during his term of office as chairman of the United States Equal Employment
11 Opportunity Commission, he supervised the entire federal effort to curb discrimination in the
12 workplace and dramatically changed the practice of the United States Equal Employment
13 Opportunity Commission to allow more flexibility in the hiring of minorities; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he served as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of
15 Columbia Circuit and is currently serving as an Associate Justice of the United States
16 Supreme Court; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he is the first Supreme Court Justice from Georgia since the Honorable
18 Joseph R. Lamar in the early 1900's and only the fourth Supreme Court Justice appointed
19 from this state in the history of our nation; and
- 20 WHEREAS, in his role as Supreme Court Justice, he has honored his state and his nation by
21 diligently working to interpret and to uphold the law to the best of his ability; and

1 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that a proper tribute be created as a lasting testimony to
2 his contributions to Georgia and the United States.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 GEORGIA that there is created the Clarence Thomas Tribute Commission to be composed
5 of six members as follows: two members shall be private citizens appointed by the
6 Governor; two members shall be private citizens appointed by the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives; and two members shall be private citizens appointed by the President of the
8 Senate. The Governor shall designate one of his appointees as chair of the commission. The
9 commission is empowered to provide for the creation of an appropriate tribute on state
10 property to the Honorable Clarence Thomas. The commission is authorized to select the site
11 on state property where such appropriate tribute shall be placed, provided that the site
12 selected shall be subject to the approval of the State Properties Commission or such state
13 agency having control thereof. Such tribute shall be financed through voluntary
14 contributions and no state funds shall be expended for such tribute or the work of the
15 commission. The commission is authorized to accept any gift, donation, or grant in
16 furtherance of its purpose and is authorized to work with any private group, organization,
17 association, or corporation having for its purpose the same purpose as the commission
18 created in this resolution. The commission shall meet as soon as practicable after all
19 members have been designated. The commission shall exist until such time as its purpose
20 is accomplished, at which time it shall stand abolished.