

Senate Resolution 451

By: Senator Jackson of the 50th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Leon Davenport on the occasion of their 50th wedding  
2 anniversary, to be celebrated September 18, 2003; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Leon Davenport and Barbara Hooper Twiggs were united in marriage on  
4 September 18, 1953, at the home of the bride's grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. James L. Hooper,  
5 Sr., in Hiawassee, Towns County, Georgia, by Pastor Wallace Preast; and

6 WHEREAS, their marriage has been an inspiration to others both here and abroad; and

7 WHEREAS, Christ was placed at the head of their family since its inception; and

8 WHEREAS, both Leon and Barbara have been longtime, faithful members of First Baptist  
9 Church of Blairsville, Georgia, as were their parents and several grandparents before them;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Leon served faithfully as a Deacon and Barbara as a Deacon's wife for many  
12 years; and

13 WHEREAS, they raised a loving, Christian family, consisting of one daughter, Cayce Lynn,  
14 and one son, Ralph Douglas; and

15 WHEREAS, Leon, during his distinguished military career, which began in 1945, rose  
16 through the ranks from private to major, receiving a battlefield commission in Korea in 1953;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, during his military career of 22 years, Leon served 131 months overseas, being  
19 stationed in the Philippine Islands (1945), Japan (1945-1950), Korea (1950-1951 and  
20 1952-1953), Germany (1962-1965), and Vietnam (1968-1969); and

1 WHEREAS, Leon was a member of the famed 24th Infantry Division, the first American unit  
2 to see action during the Korean Conflict; and

3 WHEREAS, Leon was awarded three Silver Stars, one Bronze Star with V for Valor, one  
4 Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with Nine Oak Leaf  
5 clusters, an Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, an American Campaign  
6 Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, World War II Victory  
7 Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan 1945-1950), National Defense Service Medal,  
8 Korean Service Medal with Nine Battle Stars, United Nations Korea Service Medal,  
9 Republic of Korea Service Medal, a Vietnamese Order of Gallantry with Star, Vietnamese  
10 Service Medal with three Battle Stars, and the Combat Infantry Badge; and

11 WHEREAS, Leon is recognized as being one of the United States Army's most decorated  
12 soldiers and the most highly decorated soldier from his native Union County, Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, upon his retirement from military service in August, 1972, Leon assumed the  
14 position of administrator of Union General Hospital in Blairsville, Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, "Mr. D." as he is still affectionately known by current and former hospital staff,  
16 led the struggling 33 bed hospital into the 45 bed hospital and 60 bed nursing facility it  
17 became; and

18 WHEREAS, Union General Hospital was designated as the Georgia Alliance for Community  
19 Hospitals "Rural Hospital of the Year" in 1989; and

20 WHEREAS, Leon retired from Union General Hospital in August, 1993, leaving Union  
21 County and surrounding communities with a state of the art medical facility; and

22 WHEREAS, Leon has been and continues to be a faithful member of such civic, patriotic,  
23 and philanthropic organizations as: the Blairsville Quarterback Club, Allegheny Masonic  
24 Lodge #114, Kosair Temple Shrine, the Kentucky Colonels, the Kiwanis Club, the American  
25 Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Purple Heart  
26 Association, the 24th Infantry Division Association, the 3rd Infantry Division Association,  
27 the 1st Cavalry Association, the 14th Armored Cavalry Association, and the Retired Officer's  
28 Association; and

1 WHEREAS, Leon's loving wife of 50 years, Barbara, has been faithfully by his side, lending  
2 support to all of Leon's endeavors; and

3 WHEREAS, Barbara continued to raise and sustain their family throughout Leon's career  
4 related absences; and

5 WHEREAS, Barbara was a 1949 graduate of the Napsonian School in Atlanta, Georgia, and  
6 a 1953 graduate of the University of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, Barbara has been a longtime and faithful member of Zeta Tau Alpha, a third  
8 generation member of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, a charter  
9 and organizing member of the Old Unicoi Trail Chapter, and a charter member of the  
10 Georgia State Society Cameo Club; and

11 WHEREAS, Barbara has also been a longtime and faithful member of the Order of the  
12 Eastern Star and a former member of many Officer's Wives clubs both here and abroad; and

13 WHEREAS, Barbara continues to be an exemplary homemaker, graciously opening her  
14 home to family and friends throughout the past 50 years; and

15 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that this landmark occasion of 50 years of unselfish  
16 devotion to each other, their family, their community, and their country be recognized.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
18 extend their congratulations and best wishes for continued health and happiness to Mr. and  
19 Mrs. Leon Davenport.

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 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Davenport.