

Senate Bill 33

By: Senators Thomas of the 2nd, Hill of the 4th and Johnson of the 1st

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to other state symbols, so as to designate The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage
3 Museum as an official State of Georgia center for character education; to designate the Funk
4 Heritage/Bennett Center at Reinhardt College as Georgia's official Frontier and Southeastern
5 Indian Interpretive Center; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is a living memorial created
7 to honor the more than one million personnel who have served in the United States Eighth
8 Air Force since it was organized in Savannah, Georgia, in 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force was established during the early days of World War II to
10 provide the strategic air force essential to save Europe; and

11 WHEREAS, the original Eighth Air Force included 65 Heavy Bombardment Groups, 20
12 Fighter Groups, 3 Air Divisions, 4 major headquarters, and a support command with supply,
13 maintenance, and repair depots throughout the United Kingdom; and

14 WHEREAS, The Mighty Eighth Air Force was the largest, most publicized of all of the air
15 forces and was engaged in the most vicious air combat for the longest sustained period of
16 time out of all the other major air components in this country; and

17 WHEREAS, The Mighty Eighth won the air war over Europe and made the successful
18 invasion of Europe possible, and it had no peer in any category of combat activity and
19 suffered the greatest losses of brave young men who were never turned back by enemy
20 action; and

21 WHEREAS, some 350,000 men and women served in the Eighth Air Force during World
22 War II and contributed to the greatest and most spectacular air campaigns in aviation history;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum emphasizes the teaching of
 2 character education through the numerous examples of courage, spirit, and sacrifice shown
 3 by the members of the Eighth Air Force; and

4 WHEREAS, the museum is a resource partner of the Georgia Center for Character Education
 5 and character education programming at the museum serves as a pilot program for other
 6 museums throughout this state; and

7 WHEREAS, the Funk Heritage/Bennett Center at Reinhardt College in Waleska, Georgia,
 8 is a museum and pioneer village interpreting the history and culture of the southeastern
 9 Native Americans, the first inhabitants of our colony and state who contributed
 10 immeasurably to the cultural, economic, and social development of Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, the center interprets and exhibits paintings, sculpture, and other creative works
 12 of contemporary southeastern Indian art and includes a permanent collection of antique hand
 13 tools used in trades from rope making and shipbuilding to bookbinding; and

14 WHEREAS, the center offers educational programs, performances, and demonstrations that
 15 encourage the study of Native American history and culture and enhance public awareness
 16 and understanding of the valuable contributions of our native people; and

17 WHEREAS, the Funk Heritage/Bennett Center at Reinhardt College is truly an outstanding
 18 asset to the people of Georgia and the visiting public, and its mission should be properly
 19 recognized.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

21 **SECTION 1.**

22 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other
 23 state symbols, is amended by adding at the end thereof new Code Sections 50-3-79 and
 24 50-3-80 to read as follows:

25 "50-3-79.

26 The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is designated as an official State of
 27 Georgia center for character education.

28 50-3-80.

1 The Funk Heritage/Bennett Center at Reinhardt College in Waleska, Georgia, is designated
2 as Georgia's official Frontier and Southeastern Indian Interpretive Center."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.