

Senate Resolution 561

By: Senators Stephens of the 51st, Balfour of the 9th and Mullis of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Zell Bryan Miller Tribute Commission; authorizing the placement of a statue
2 on the grounds of the State Capitol Building; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Honorable Zell Bryan Miller was born on February 24, 1932, in Young
4 Harris, Georgia, and is one of Georgia's most distinguished native sons; and

5 WHEREAS, as a young man he served his country with honor and distinction in the United
6 States Marine Corps from 1953 to 1956, leaving the Corps as a Sergeant and Rifle Expert;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, he attended Young Harris College prior to his military service and later earned
9 Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history from the University of Georgia and entered the
10 teaching profession as a history professor at Young Harris College; and

11 WHEREAS, he began a long and distinguished career in public service in 1959 with a term
12 as Mayor of Young Harris, was elected to the Georgia Senate in 1960, won the first of four
13 consecutive terms as Georgia's Lieutenant Governor in 1974, and was elected to the first of
14 two terms as Governor of Georgia in 1990; and

15 WHEREAS, he has served as United States Senator from Georgia since 2000 and has
16 announced his intention to retire from the Senate at the end of his current term; and

17 WHEREAS, his achievements and contributions during more than four decades of public
18 service are far too numerous to list, but mention may be made of his accomplishments as
19 Governor in moving Georgia from fiscal difficulties to full reserves while achieving major
20 cuts in sales and income taxes; and

1 WHEREAS, he has a passion for education and has contributed greatly to the cause of
 2 education in Georgia in many ways, most notably through the creation of the highly
 3 successful HOPE Scholarship program and the nation's first pre-kindergarten program; and

4 WHEREAS, it is appropriate that an enduring memorial should be created as a testimony to
 5 the accomplishments and service of this great Georgian.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
 7 GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 (a) There is created the Zell Bryan Miller Tribute Commission to be composed of nine
 10 members selected as follows:

11 (1) Five members appointed by the Governor, with a chairperson and vice chairperson
 12 to be designated by the Governor from among these members;

13 (2) One member to be appointed by the Georgia Senate Committee on Assignments and
 14 one member to be appointed by the Georgia Senate Minority Leader; and

15 (3) One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives
 16 and one member to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Georgia House of
 17 Representatives.

18 (b) Membership on the commission shall not constitute the holding of a public office and
 19 the members of the commission shall serve without compensation.

20 (c) The commission shall exist for an indefinite term as may be necessary to complete its
 21 work and shall be dissolved by resolution of the commission upon completion of its work.

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 The commission is authorized to:

24 (1) Provide for the commissioning of a statue of the Honorable Zell Miller, the same to
 25 be accomplished solely through voluntary contributions to the commission or such fund
 26 or funds as it may establish or designate for such purpose;

27 (2) Provide for the selection and design of an appropriate placement for such statue on
 28 or adjacent to the grounds of the Georgia State Capitol Building, provided that the site
 29 selected and the design of the placement shall be approved by the State Properties
 30 Commission;

31 (3) Solicit and accept gifts, donations, and grants in furtherance of its purposes; and

32 (4) Work cooperatively with any private group, organization, association, or corporation
 33 having the same general purpose as the commission.

1 **SECTION 3.**

2 Upon completion of the commission's work, the Governor shall be authorized to accept and
3 provide for the dedication of a statue of the Honorable Zell Miller to be placed on or adjacent
4 to the grounds of the State Capitol Building.