

Senate Resolution 662

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st and Thomas of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the City of Savannah and the Siege of Savannah reenactment coordinators; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, during the American Revolution, some 3,000 British forces under the command
4 of British Colonel Archibald Campbell invaded and captured Savannah on December 29,
5 1778; and

6 WHEREAS, the success of this invasion depended upon the assistance of the loyalist slave
7 Quamino Dolly who informed the invading British of a path to enable the flanking of the
8 defending forces; and

9 WHEREAS, the capture of Savannah led to the rapid capitulation of Georgia to the Crown
10 forces, returning Georgia to English rule; and

11 WHEREAS, in September of 1779, Count Charles Henri d'Estaing brought a force of nearly
12 3,000 French soldiers from the West Indies to Savannah and laid siege to the
13 British-occupied town, marking the first commitment of French forces to the cause of
14 American independence; and

15 WHEREAS, after nearly a month-long bombardment of Savannah and the linking of
16 American forces under the command of General Benjamin Lincoln, allied forces mounted
17 an ill fated frontal assault on the morning of October 9, 1779; and

18 WHEREAS, this engagement presents the Revolutionary War as an international conflict
19 more than does any other engagement of the Revolution; with the lessons learned in
20 Savannah providing the template for the success at Yorktown some two years later; and

21 WHEREAS, this battle reminds us that significant foreign resources of men, money, and
22 material contributed to the eventual success of the cause of American independence, with

1 French, Polish, Native Americans, African slaves, free men of African descent, Germans,
2 Hessians, Austrians, Scots, Welsh, Irish, British, Swedish, West Indian colonials, and
3 American patriots participating as individuals and whole units in this most culturally diverse
4 battle of the war; and

5 WHEREAS, this battle resulted in the largest number of casualties the allies suffered in a
6 single engagement, including the loss of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment of Foot patriot
7 Sgt. William Jasper and the Polish Count Casimir Pulaski, among the 800 allied casualties,
8 among others; and

9 WHEREAS, among the numerous American and French units who distinguished themselves
10 in this battle were the nearly four hundred plus men of the Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint
11 Domingue, ten companies of free black volunteer Haitian soldiers who fought a valiant effort
12 to protect retreating forces, the first such group in the annals of the French armed forces; and

13 WHEREAS, among the Volontaires was a young Henry Christophe, a 12-year-old drummer
14 boy, who later became a leader in the struggle for Haitian independence from French colonial
15 rule and became the King of Haiti; the second head of state in the Western Hemisphere to
16 be of African heritage; and

17 WHEREAS, the City of Savannah is sponsoring the Commemoration of the 225th
18 Anniversary of the Siege of Savannah on the weekend of October 9, 2004.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body commends the
20 City of Savannah and the coordinators of this event for their dedication to preserving our
21 diverse heritage, and invites all Georgians to attend the reenactment activities in Savannah
22 on the dates of October 8 – 10, 2004.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the appropriate representatives of the
25 City of Savannah and its reenactment coordinators.