

Senate Resolution 722

By: Senator Cheeks of the 23rd

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Honorable James L. Lester; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Honorable James L. Lester served with distinction and unparalleled ability  
3 as a member of the State Transportation Board from 1989-2004; and

4 WHEREAS, this dynamic public servant served the board with honor and integrity,  
5 providing leadership to the board as its chairman and twice as its vice chairman, thus  
6 faithfully representing the citizens of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, his keen knowledge of the needs of Georgia's transportation infrastructure and  
8 thorough consideration of transportation issues have enriched the Georgia Department of  
9 Transportation and earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and his  
10 constituents; and

11 WHEREAS, James L. Lester is a member of the American Bar Association, Georgia Bar  
12 Association, Augusta Bar Association, and Association of Trial Lawyers in Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, James L. Lester served in the Georgia State Senate from the 23rd District from  
14 1971-1985, providing leadership as chairman of the Banking and Finance Committee and as  
15 a member of the Appropriations Committee, Human Resources Committee, Judiciary  
16 Committee, Senate Democratic Policy Committee, and Legislative Services Committee; and

17 WHEREAS, he has served as chairman of the Georgia Tax Reform Commission, the  
18 Committee on Constitutional Revision, and the Governor's Advisory Council on Mental  
19 Health and Retardation; and

20 WHEREAS, his tireless work on behalf of mental health has earned him well-deserved  
21 honors, including Outstanding Service to the Mentally Retarded from the Augusta  
22 Association for Retarded Children, Public Affairs Award for service to mental health from

1 the Mental Health Association of Metropolitan Atlanta, Distinguished Service Award from  
2 the Georgia Association of Mental Health, an Award for Outstanding Service to Mental  
3 Health from the Mental Health Association of Greater Augusta, and Senator of the Year  
4 Award from the Georgia Association of Mental Health; and

5 WHEREAS, his laudable public service has also earned him recognition for Outstanding  
6 Service to Education from the Richmond County Educators Association, Citations for  
7 Legislative Service from the Georgia Municipal Association, Service Awards from the  
8 Georgia Hospital Association, the Herman Haas Award for Outstanding Service to the  
9 Insurance Industry of Georgia from the Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia, and  
10 resolutions of appreciation from the Metro Augusta Chamber of Commerce and the Augusta  
11 Canal Authority; and

12 WHEREAS, his civic accomplishments have enriched his community, including his service  
13 as chairman of the Richmond County Democratic Executive Committee, as a member of the  
14 board of directors of the Metropolitan YMCA, as an advisory committee member of the Boy  
15 Scouts of America -- Georgia-Carolina District, and as president of the Augusta Chapter of  
16 the American Cancer Society; and

17 WHEREAS, James L. Lester is a graduate of The Citadel and the University of Georgia  
18 School of Law; and

19 WHEREAS, he faithfully and courageously served his country in the United States Army  
20 from 1952-1956, being honorably discharged with the rank of captain; and

21 WHEREAS, James L. Lester has devoted his life to the high calling of public service and has  
22 earned the respect of the State Transportation Board and of all Georgians for his exemplary  
23 stewardship of the public trust.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
25 honor and commend James L. Lester for the high quality of his service to the State  
26 Transportation Board, to his community, and to the State of Georgia and wish him every  
27 success in future endeavors.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
29 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable James L. Lester.