

Senate Resolution 750

By: Senator Cheeks of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mr. W. S. Morris III and congratulating The Augusta Futurity on the occasion
2 of its 25th anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, National Cutting Horse Hall of Fame inductee, Mr. William "Billy" Morris, has
4 built The Augusta Futurity into one of the premier cutting horse events in the world,
5 attracting the finest cutting horses, riders, and competition from the United States, Canada,
6 and abroad; and

7 WHEREAS, The Augusta Futurity held its inaugural three-day event February 7-9, 1980, and
8 was then comprised of two competitive divisions with 103 competitors; the event has grown
9 prodigiously and now spans ten days, eight divisions and 750 competitors, drawing an
10 expected 42,000 visitors to Augusta; and

11 WHEREAS, celebrating its rich history and silver anniversary with its 25th annual event,
12 The Augusta Futurity's total points champion will take home an additional \$25,000.00 purse
13 in honor of the occasion; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1980, purses totaled less than \$65,000.00; the combined purses of the 2004
15 event are expected to award more than \$1 million to competitors; and

16 WHEREAS, during the Futurity, Augusta is host to one of the nation's largest horse and
17 carriage parades and plays a major role in preserving this valuable piece of our nation's
18 history; and

19 WHEREAS, the event attracted approximately 270 vendors, filling the Civic Center and the
20 Bell Auditorium to capacity; and

21 WHEREAS, direct visitor spending during The Augusta Futurity was valued at over
22 \$3.9 million in 2002 and over \$4.5 million in 2003; the combined economic impact of the

1 Futurity over its 25 year history is estimated to have infused over \$220 million into
2 Augusta's economy; and

3 WHEREAS, The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce expects the economic impact of the
4 2004 event to be \$12 million.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
6 commend Mr. William "Billy" Morris and congratulate The Augusta Futurity on being one
7 of the foremost cutting horse competitions in the world, its 25th anniversary, and on the
8 invaluable impact the event has had on the cultural and economic development of Augusta.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. W. S. Morris III and The Augusta
11 Futurity.