

Senate Resolution 786

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Hudgens of the 47th, Shafer of the 48th, Johnson of the 1st, Smith of the 52nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the display of the Ten Commandments and the acknowledgment of God by
2 local governments and the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence declares that governments are instituted to
4 secure certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, with
5 which all human beings are endowed by their Creator and to which they are entitled by the
6 laws of nature and of nature's God; and

7 WHEREAS, the organic laws of the United States Code and the Constitutions of every state,
8 using various expressions, recognize God as the source of the blessings of liberty; and

9 WHEREAS, the Preamble of the Georgia Constitution affirms that the people of Georgia
10 relied upon "the protection and guidance of Almighty God" in ordaining and establishing the
11 Constitution of the State of Georgia; and

12 WHEREAS, Section 45-13-41 of the Georgia Code acknowledges the Ten Commandments
13 as one of the "nationally recognized documents which contributed to the history of the State
14 of Georgia"; and

15 WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments have been foundational to the development of the
16 fundamental legal principles of every government in the history of Western Civilization, and,
17 are, indeed, the foundation of the system of law and justice of the United States of America,
18 including the legislative process and deliberations of our state legislature; and

19 WHEREAS, the Ten Commandments set forth a code of moral conduct, observance of which
20 is universally acknowledged to promote respect for our system of laws and the good of
21 society; and

1 WHEREAS, this code of moral conduct states:
2 I. I am the LORD thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
3 II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
4 III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.
5 IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
6 V. Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the
7 LORD thy God giveth thee.
8 VI. Thou shalt not kill.
9 VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
10 VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
11 IX. Thou shalt not commit false witness against thy neighbor.
12 X. Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.
13 ; and

14 WHEREAS, on September 25, 1789, the day that Congress approved the First Amendment
15 to the U.S. Constitution, Congress resolved to direct a committee to "wait upon the President
16 to request that he recommend to the people a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be
17 observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of All Mighty
18 God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a constitutional
19 government for their safety and happiness"; and

20 WHEREAS, the public display of the Ten Commandments is an acknowledgment of God's
21 sovereignty over civil government and President George Washington stated in his first
22 executive order that "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of
23 All Mighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His
24 favor and protection"; and

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that in order to remind our
26 citizens of the significance of the Ten Commandments and in order to acknowledge God as
27 the source of human liberties, this body encourages the local officials of this state to
28 appropriately display the Ten Commandments and a copy of this resolution or any part
29 thereof in local government facilities where the public gathers.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the Governor of Georgia to
31 appropriately display in the capitol any monument or tablet containing the Ten
32 Commandments which may be presented to the Governor or the state for such purpose.

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an appropriate
- 2 copy of this resolution to the Governor and make copies readily available to the local
- 3 officials of the State of Georgia.