

Senate Resolution 902

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Balfour of the 9th, Shafer of the 48th, Levetan of the 40th, Unterman of the 45th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 In memory and honoring the lives of Mr. William Stephen "Billy" Venable, Sr., and Mr.
2 William "Bill" Coleman Venable, Jr.; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the City of Lilburn, the DeKalb County school system, Tucker High School,
4 and the State of Georgia lost one of their most upstanding, decent, respected, and admired
5 fathers and citizens and one of their finest, most promising, generous, and compassionate
6 sons with the deaths of Mr. William Stephen "Billy" Venable and his son, Mr. William "Bill"
7 Venable, Jr., on January 13, 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, the senior Mr. Venable was an Atlanta native and taught special education and
9 coached wrestling and football for 26 years in the DeKalb County school system; and

10 WHEREAS, he was married to Susan Venable, his beautiful and loving wife of 26 years; and

11 WHEREAS, he was a coach to many but a friend to all and his colleagues and students,
12 current and former, will never forget the many gifts he gave to Tucker High School and the
13 young people of this state; and

14 WHEREAS, in recognition and honor of his service and contributions to education and
15 athletics, the DeKalb County Board of Education has named the county wrestling tournament
16 the "William Stephen Venable Championship"; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Venable, Jr., was also an Atlanta native and standout senior at Tucker High
18 School where he was a center for the football team and member of the wrestling team; and

19 WHEREAS, a diverse young man, the junior Mr. Venable's fondness for Shakespeare
20 inspired him to perform, at every opportunity, in his school's productions of the playwright's
21 work; and

1 WHEREAS, the young Mr. Venable was noted for his humor and polite and gentle manner
2 and his willingness to help those in need, volunteering his time to baby-sit for friends and
3 neighbors at a moment's notice; and

4 WHEREAS, surviving family members include wife and mother, Susan Venable; sons and
5 brothers, Stephen Venable and Eddie Steele; and daughter and sister, Amy Venable; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Venable was 55 years of age and Mr. Venable, Jr., was 17 and both were
7 heroes.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
9 remember and honor the lives of Mr. William Stephen "Billy" Venable, Sr., and Mr. William
10 "Bill" Coleman Venable, Jr., both outstanding individuals who will never be forgotten by
11 family, friends, students, colleagues, or this state.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
13 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Susan Venable and Tucker High School.