

Senate Resolution 996

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

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Candler Hospital; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Legislature passed a revenue enhancement act in 1789 stipulating
3 a provision of three pence per ton on all shipping entering the Port of Savannah and provided
4 that such revenue would be set aside for the establishment of a hospital for sick and disabled
5 seamen; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1794, the Georgia Legislature further authorized the establishment of a state
7 sponsored lottery to raise funds towards the hospital's construction; and

8 WHEREAS, the official charter for the first city of Georgia's first health care facility was
9 granted on December 12, 1804, and signed by Georgia Governor John Milledge; and

10 WHEREAS, four years later in 1808, the Georgia Legislature authorized the incorporation
11 of the "Savannah Hospital" and eventually Candler Hospital, and

12 WHEREAS, this health care facility provided experienced, compassionate medical care to
13 its citizens and visitors in times of great need like the city's cholera threat in 1834, yellow
14 fever epidemic in 1876, and scarlet fever epidemic at the end of the nineteenth century; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1902, the first school of nursing in the city of Savannah, and one of the first
16 in the state and the nation, was founded at this health facility, graduating its first class in the
17 year 1904; presently, graduates of this nursing school have served and are still serving with
18 distinction throughout the United States and the world; and

19 WHEREAS, the Methodist Church purchased the hospital for \$1,000.00 and renamed it in
20 honor of local Bishop Warren A. Candler before later joining forces with the May Telfair
21 Hospital, the country's oldest women's hospital, and the Georgia Infirmary, the country's
22 oldest hospital for African Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1997, Candler Hospital entered into a joint operating agreement with the
2 city's only other century-old health care provider, St. Joseph's Hospital, creating the largest
3 and most experienced health care provider in southeast Georgia, and forging a new future
4 together based on their mutual origins, shared philosophies, and historic commitments to
5 community based health care; and

6 WHEREAS, Candler Hospital is presently recognized as the second oldest hospital in
7 continuous operation in the United States of America; and

8 WHEREAS, as one of our state's leading health care organizations, Candler has become a
9 name synonymous with compassionate, quality health care and advanced medical treatment
10 for numerous generations of Savannah families over the course of the last 200 years.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body gratefully
12 acknowledges Candler Hospital's tremendous contributions to the advancement of medicine
13 and to the dedicated health and well being of the citizens of Savannah and coastal Georgia.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
15 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Candler Hospital.