

## House Resolution 821

By: Representatives Jamieson of the 28<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, Kidd of the 115<sup>th</sup>, Rogers of the 26<sup>th</sup>, Harbin of the 118<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and lifetime achievements of the late Governor Samuel Ernest Vandiver,  
2 Jr., by recommending that an appropriate building on the University of Georgia campus be  
3 named in his memory; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, upon his death in February, 2005, memorial accolades poured forth to  
5 remember Governor S. Ernest Vandiver, Jr., including lines from *The Atlanta*  
6 *Journal-Constitution* "if a single figure can be said to demarcate the end of Old Georgia and  
7 the beginning of the New, it was former Governor Ernest Vandiver, Jr."; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Vandiver addressed the General Assembly in 1961 to announce that  
9 a campaign platform position he had taken was ill-timed, ill-advised, and not in the best  
10 interest of many qualified Georgians who sought admission to the University of Georgia; and

11 WHEREAS, because of the Governor's recognition that the flagship university of the state's  
12 system should be opened to students of all races, nationalities, and stations in life, he  
13 therefore desegregated the University of Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, the university was integrated with none of the vicious riots and fatalities  
15 associated with integration of universities in other parts of the Deep South; and

16 WHEREAS, as *Toccoa Record* publisher Tom Law opined, "Vandiver's gutsy decision also  
17 paved the way for relatively peaceful racial relations in Georgia throughout the tumultuous  
18 1960's. Although he didn't benefit from the decision, Georgia certainly did ..."; and

19 WHEREAS, Governor Vandiver was eulogized in his beloved First Baptist Church of  
20 Lavonia by the honorable former Attorney General of the United States, Griffin Bell, who  
21 said "Ernie Vandiver was a great Southerner. He rose above being a political leader and  
22 became a statesman ..."; and

1 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia educated and nurtured Governor S. Ernest Vandiver,  
2 Jr., and should honor this native son of Georgia by bestowing his name upon a prominent  
3 building on the main campus.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
5 this body recommends to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the  
6 president of the University of Georgia, and the University Council that action be taken to  
7 honor this statesman by perpetuating his memory and courage and sustaining his  
8 contributions to the University of Georgia forever by bestowing his name upon a prominent  
9 building on the main campus.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
11 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the board of regents, the  
12 president of University of Georgia, and the University Council.