

House Resolution 1458

By: Representatives Lane of the 158th, Burns of the 157th, Richardson of the 19th, Harbin of the 118th, Barnard of the 166th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Remembering and honoring the life of Mr. Billy Tillman; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Bulloch County lost one of its most beloved citizens and a pillar of the
3 community on October 14, 2005, with the passing of Mr. Billy Tillman; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Tillman, a lifelong resident of Bulloch County, was born in the Bulloch
5 County Jail in 1927, where his father, Joe G. Tillman, was sheriff; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served his country honorably as a member of the United States Navy during
7 World War II; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Tillman was the cofounder of Tillman and Deal Farm Supply and was an
9 integral part of the Bulloch County agricultural business community for many years; and
- 10 WHEREAS, an avid fisher and hunter, Mr. Tillman was one of the oldest members of the
11 Thompson's Pasture Hunting Club and had arguably the best fish pond in his county, where
12 he spent countless hours insuring its perfect balance; and
- 13 WHEREAS, although he never ran for public office himself, Mr. Tillman was very active
14 behind the scenes in local politics, giving generously of his time and money to support
15 quality local, state, and national candidates to serve Bulloch County; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Mr. Tillman was a faithful member of Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church and
17 a man who dearly loved his wife, Mary Lee, his three children, Jan, Lee, and Billy Joe, and
18 his 11 grandchildren; and
- 19 WHEREAS, generosity was one of the hallmarks of Mr. Tillman's stellar character, and those
20 who knew him best will attest to his many, often anonymous, acts of kindness, touching an
21 unknown number of lives in his community; and

1 WHEREAS, called "Rooster" by some of his closest buddies, Mr. Tillman greatly valued the
2 time he spent with his friends and served in an unofficial capacity as "chairman of the board"
3 of their regular fellowship nights and poker games; and

4 WHEREAS, with his distinct walk, legendary sense of humor, and outgoing personality, Mr.
5 Tillman was a simply unforgettable character, and he will always be remembered with great
6 affection for his compassion, integrity, and gentle, giving spirit.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of Mr.
9 Billy Tillman and extend their most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
11 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Mary Lee Tillman.