

House Resolution 231

By: Representatives Rogers of the 26th, Collins of the 27th, Mills of the 25th, and Benton of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and remembering the life of Mr. Wright Willingham; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia lost one of its most distinguished citizens with the passing
3 of Wright Willingham on Thursday, February 1, 2007; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born on a snowy day in Rome, Georgia, on January 23, 1940 to Tom
5 and Clara Enloe Willingham; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he graduated cum laude from the Darlington School in Rome in 1958,
7 graduated with honors in 1962 from Duke University, where he was a member of the Pi
8 Kappa Phi fraternity and Phi Beta Kappa, and attended the University of Georgia Law
9 School, where he was a member of the Blue Key Society; and
- 10 WHEREAS, after graduating from law school in 1965, he moved to Gainesville and joined
11 the law firm of Welchel, Dunlap, and Gignilliat, where he was a partner for 40 years; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Mr. Wright was extraordinarily active in civic and community endeavors and
13 was a founding member of the Gainesville Ballet and a member of Kiwanis; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he was a longtime and devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of
15 Gainesville, where he was a member of the Housing Healthcare Grant committee and the
16 Endowment committee and served as a deacon, an elder, a Sunday school teacher, and, with
17 his wife, Kathy, led the Middle High School Youth Group from 1968 to 1975; and
- 18 WHEREAS, he was adored for his magnanimous spirit and for his uninhibited sense of
19 humor, and, when his children were young, he delighted in entertaining them by dancing in
20 the grocery store or in other public places; and

1 WHEREAS, he leaves behind to cherish his memory a loving wife of 38 years, Kathy
2 Kluberg Willingham; a son, Thomas; twin daughters, Sarah and Jane; a granddaughter,
3 Victoria; a sister, Starr Byrne; a brother, Enloe; and a host of relatives, colleagues, and
4 friends; and

5 WHEREAS, in life he commanded the esteem of his fellow Georgians; at his death we
6 mingle our sympathies with the grief of his family and friends.

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 Wright Willingham and extend their most sincere condolences to his family.

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 the family of Wright
12 Willingham.