08 LC 95 0197

Senate Resolution 915

By: Senators Bulloch of the 11th, Tolleson of the 20th, Thomas of the 54th, Williams of the 19th, Hooks of the 14th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the bicentennial birthday of Jefferson Finis Davis and declaring 2008 as the
- 2 "Year of Davis"; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was born to Georgia Revolutionary War veteran Samuel
- 4 Emory Davis and Jane Cook Davis in Christian County, Kentucky, on June 3, 1808; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis attended the United States Military Academy at West
- 6 Point on the appointment of President James Monroe, graduating in 1828; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis entered politics and was elected to the United States
- 8 Congress as a Representative in 1845; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in June, 1846, he resigned his seat in the House of Representatives to establish
- 10 a regiment that would become the 1st Mississippi Volunteer Rifles; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he was appointed by the Governor of Mississippi to fill a vacancy in the United
- 12 States Senate in August, 1847; and in January, 1848, the legislature unanimously elected him
- 13 Senator and reelected him in 1850 for a full term; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he was named chairman of the Senate committee on military affairs, and went
- on to serve as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis returned to the United States Senate in March, 1857, and
- served until he resigned when Mississippi seceded on January 9,1861; and
- 18 WHEREAS, on January 21, 1861, Senator Jefferson Davis took formal leave of the United
- 19 States Senate in a speech in which he defended the cause of the South and, in closing, begged
- 20 pardon of all whom he had ever offended; and

08 LC 95 0197

1 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the

- 2 Confederate States of America, serving from 1861 until 1865, leading a new nation at war;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis held the last Confederate cabinet meeting in Washington,
- 5 Georgia, on May 4, 1865; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis was captured by the United States Calvary outside the
- 7 town of Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis would visit the State of Georgia numerous times after the
- 9 war for celebrations, dedications, and reunions; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Jefferson Finis Davis died on December 6, 1889, in New Orleans, Louisiana,
- and returned to Georgia one final time on his 1,200 mile funeral train trip to Richmond,
- 12 Virginia, and became the first and only president to lie in state at the state capitol in Atlanta
- 13 on May 29, 1893; and
- 14 WHEREAS, on December 16, 1897, the State of Georgia enacted a law making Jefferson
- 15 Finis Davis's birthday a state holiday; and
- 16 WHEREAS, on August 18, 1905, the General Assembly created and named Jeff Davis
- 17 County in his honor; and
- 18 WHEREAS, on June 3, 1939, the State of Georgia established the Jefferson Davis Memorial
- 19 State Historic Site in Irwinville, Georgia.
- 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
- 21 do hereby declare that 2008 shall be known as the "Year of Davis" and encourage Georgia
- 22 citizens to organize, publicize, promote, and attend any appropriate observances and
- 23 commemorations in celebration of this event.
- 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 25 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia divisions of the Sons of
- 26 Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Children of the
- 27 Confederacy.