

Senate Resolution 1112

By: Senators Hawkins of the 49th and Murphy of the 27th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Phil Niekro as the recipient of the Gainesville Kiwanis Club
2 Youth Service Award; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Youth Service Award is the highest honor the Gainesville Kiwanis Club can
4 bestow, and it is awarded annually to a person who has rendered dedicated and outstanding
5 service to the youth in the community; and

6 WHEREAS, on March 18, 2008, Phil Niekro will receive the Gainesville Kiwanis Club
7 Youth Service Award for his exemplary work on behalf of children and youth; and

8 WHEREAS, a longtime symbol of the Atlanta Braves, Phil Niekro holds many major league
9 records, nearly all of which are a result of his trademark pitch, the knuckleball, which kept
10 him in the majors until he was 48; and

11 WHEREAS, there was little indignation in Atlanta when he finally signed with the Yankees
12 as a free agent, the consensus being that he deserved an opportunity to pitch for a contending
13 team; and

14 WHEREAS, his effectiveness did not falter with age, and in his forties he fashioned a 17-4
15 mark with Atlanta in 1982, and at age 45 he went 16-8 for the Yankees; and

16 WHEREAS, he became the 13th pitcher to win 300 games and at age 46 he was the oldest
17 hurler ever to pitch a complete game shutout; and

18 WHEREAS, his character and ability to master the most difficult pitch will always be
19 recognized, but there is another side to Phil Niekro and that is his deep commitment to the
20 children and youth in this state; and

1 WHEREAS, through his efforts on behalf of children and youth, he has helped to raise
2 millions of dollars for children's health organizations, agencies serving abused children, and
3 sports facilities for physically challenged youth, always having time to stop and help lift a
4 child up; and

5 WHEREAS, he has truly immersed himself in making dreams come true for children and the
6 agencies that serve them, and his passion shines through as he recruits others to join him in
7 his efforts; and

8 WHEREAS, he has been instrumental in raising funds for the Edmondson Telford Center for
9 Children, helping thousands of children, and he is working with the Field of Dreams, a
10 million dollar project to create a sports complex for physically challenged children; and

11 WHEREAS, he is not a newcomer to the effort of helping youth, raising money in the late
12 1970's and early 1980's to bring about national awareness of spina bifida, hosting the Phil
13 Niekro Golf Classic for ten years, helping to raise in excess of \$10 million for Egleston's
14 Children Hospital, and being recognized both locally and nationally for his outstanding
15 efforts in this area.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
17 join together to commend Phil Niekro for his decades of efficient, effective, unselfish, and
18 dedicated efforts on behalf of children and youth in this state.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
20 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution Phil Niekro.