

Senate Resolution 1227

By: Senators Jackson of the 24th, Staton of the 18th, Murphy of the 27th, Heath of the 31st, Thompson of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mr. George William "Sonny" Poss; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. George William "Sonny" Poss was born the youngest of four children to
3 an athletic family in Thomson, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, at the age of 15, Mr. Poss began teaching swimming and diving at Shield's Pond
5 in McDuffie County and subsequently became a lifeguard at East Lake Country Club in
6 Atlanta; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in high school, he earned 16 varsity letters, with four each in football,
8 basketball, and track and two each in baseball and tennis; received statewide recognition for
9 his performance in the boys quartet and a one-act play; starred in the Georgia High School
10 All Star Football Game; won four State Championships in the high jump; and was captain
11 of the *Chronicle Herald* Basketball Tournament All Star Team, which is one of the largest
12 tournaments in the country; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mr. Poss is the only player from Thomson, Georgia, to earn first team All State
14 honors two times, in 1953 and 1954, and he earned an athletic scholarship to play basketball
15 at the University of Georgia; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he was a member of the track team for the University of Georgia, lettering three
17 times and winning the SEC high jump as a sophomore and junior, setting a school record of
18 6 feet 4 1/2 inches; and
- 19 WHEREAS, he lettered in swimming for three years at the University of Georgia, was the
20 SEC runner up for three straight years in the backstroke, and was on the 400 yard medley
21 relay team; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Poss won nine varsity letters in basketball, track, and swimming, at a time
23 when freshmen were not allowed to play varsity sports, a feat which no one has
24 accomplished since; and

25 WHEREAS, he earned numerous awards and accolades during his incredible athletic career,
26 including Best All-Around Athlete in the Southeastern Conference as a junior and senior and
27 was an Olympic torch bearer in 1996; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Poss diligently and conscientiously devoted his time, talents, and energy
29 to the future leaders of this state as a physical education teacher and football, track, and
30 basketball coach at Butler High School in Augusta; and

31 WHEREAS, an active community leader, Mr. Poss has served as the Aquatics Director at the
32 Athens YMCA Camp in Tallulah Falls, Georgia, for 43 summers, a member of the Augusta
33 Elks Lodge, the Thomson Boat Club, Tri-County Retired Educators Association, and a
34 member of the board of directors of the McDuffie Regional Medical Center Foundation, First
35 United Methodist Church of Thomson, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Augusta and
36 Thomson.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Mr. George William "Sonny" Poss and
39 request that he be placed in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame for his amazing athletic career.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. George William "Sonny" Poss.