

## House Resolution 1974

By: Representatives Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, Cheokas of the 134<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Porter of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Capitol Art Standards Commission consider hanging a portrait of the  
2 Honorable Griffin Boyette Bell at the capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Honorable Griffin Boyette Bell was one of Georgia's most distinguished  
4 public servants, innovative legal minds, and civil rights advocates; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Bell served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty in the  
6 United States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during  
7 World War II as a major; and

8 WHEREAS, he completed his undergraduate studies at Georgia Southwestern College and  
9 went on to graduate cum laude from Mercer University Law School in Macon, Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, after he was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1947, Judge Bell practiced in  
11 Savannah and Rome, Georgia, before joining the Atlanta law firm of King and Spalding in  
12 1953, where he rose to the level of managing partner in 1958; and

13 WHEREAS, Judge Bell began his career as a public servant in 1959 with his honorary  
14 position as Chief of Staff to Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver, advising the Governor for  
15 over two and a half years before being appointed by President John F. Kennedy in October  
16 of 1961 to serve as a United States Circuit Judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; and

17 WHEREAS, during his 15 years on the federal bench, Judge Bell supervised the creation of  
18 dozens of school desegregation plans, playing an integral role in defusing racial tensions of  
19 the time and paving the way for peaceful desegregation of public schools in Georgia and  
20 other states; and

21 WHEREAS, Judge Bell's integrity, professionalism, and sharp legal mind were qualities his  
22 childhood neighbor President Jimmy Carter admired, and in 1976, the President nominated  
23 this great Georgian for the position of Attorney General for the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, on January 26, 1977, Griffin B. Bell was sworn in as the 72nd United States  
25 Attorney General by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger; and

26 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Attorney General, Judge Bell helped rehabilitate the United  
27 States Justice Department's severely damaged reputation which was caused by the Watergate  
28 scandal of the early 1970's; and

29 WHEREAS, after the conclusion of his term as United States Attorney General, this dean of  
30 Georgia lawyers continued his remarkable legal career specializing in conducting internal,  
31 page-turning investigations for corporations in legal distress such as E.F. Hutton, after its  
32 financial scandal; Exxon, after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska; and Dow Corning, after  
33 the company's silicone implants were linked to health risks; and

34 WHEREAS, one of the most important Georgians of the 20th century, Judge Bell was known  
35 for his integrity, professionalism, sense of humor, and charm, and the State of Georgia is  
36 proud to have been called home by such a respected and accomplished individual; and

37 WHEREAS, a portrait of this trusted and enduring public figure, principled statesman, and  
38 strong defender of the First Amendment would be an appropriate addition to the halls of this  
39 state's capitol.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
41 the members of this body request that the Capitol Art Standards Commission consider  
42 hanging a portrait of the Honorable Griffin Boyette Bell at the capitol.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
44 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Capitol Art Standards  
45 Commission and Clerk of the House of Representatives.