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Senate Resolution 42

By: Senator Pearson of the 51st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Anthony "Tony" Schopp; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony "Tony" Schopp served in the hotel industry for over 20 years as
- 3 the head of field sales for both Hyatt Hotels and Resorts and Westin Hotels and Resorts in
- 4 Washington, D.C.; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Mr. Schopp has also served as executive vice president of the Machinery
- 6 Dealers National Association, an international group of small businesses in the machine tool
- 7 industry; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in 1998, after moving to Savannah, Georgia, with his wife, Georgeanne, Mr.
- 9 Schopp presided as president and CEO of the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau
- 10 until 2006; and
- WHEREAS, during his time as president and CEO of the Savannah Convention and Visitors
- Bureau, the revenue to Savannah based on tourist dollars increased more than 200% from
- 13 \$958 million in 1998 to \$1.941 billion in 2006; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Mr. Schopp's strategy for increasing tourism in Savannah was to focus
- 15 marketing on attracting overnight visitors and concentrate efforts on expanding the business
- side of tourism in the city; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he has played leadership roles in many tourism focused organizations, including
- 18 the Savannah Film Commission, Savannah Music Festival, Georgia Department of
- 19 Community Affairs Hotel Motel Tax Performance Review Board, Southeast Tourism Policy
- 20 Council of the United States Department of the Interior, and the Executive Association of
- 21 Savannah; and

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WHEREAS, in April, 2002, Mr. Schoop established the Tourism Development Alliance of

- 23 Georgia, which began as a small group of tourism industry professionals from around this
- 24 state who gathered to establish a unified strategic effort to further tourism in Georgia; and
- 25 WHEREAS, as chairman of the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia, Mr. Schoop led
- 26 efforts to establish funding for the group's first summit, which was ultimately held on
- 27 November 10, 2002; and
- 28 WHEREAS, Mr. Schopp's hard work, dedication, and vision was instrumental in the
- 29 establishment of the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia, and the success achieved
- 30 by this organization are a direct result of the solid foundation he established.
- 31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
- 32 join in commending the achievements of Mr. Anthony Schopp and recognizing his foresight
- and resolution in founding the Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia.
- 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
- 35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Anthony Schopp.