

Senate Resolution 274

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th and Mullis of the 53rd

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the tulip poplar adjacent to Dalton City Hall planted October 18, 2006, in
2 Dalton, Georgia, as the official Liberty Tree of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the American concept of the Liberty Tree originated in Boston in 1765 when
4 the Sons of Liberty chose a stately elm under which to voice their opposition to the Stamp
5 Act, a British tax imposed on newspapers and official documents; and

6 WHEREAS, the tradition of Liberty Trees spread throughout the colonies as the American
7 Revolution began, with the 13 colonies adopting Liberty Trees to serve as gathering and
8 rallying places at a time when the British Crown did not recognize Americans' right to
9 peaceful public assembly; and

10 WHEREAS, the last of the original Liberty Trees was located in Annapolis, Maryland, on
11 the campus of St. John's College until 1999, when it was damaged in Hurricane Floyd and
12 removed after standing proudly and serving as a symbolic representation of America's desire
13 for independence for more than 400 years; and

14 WHEREAS, fourteen offspring from the Maryland Liberty Tree were salvaged, and the
15 American Forests organization and the Providence Forum coordinated a plan to place one
16 descendant from the last surviving Liberty Tree in each of the 13 original colonies and one
17 sapling at Mount Vernon to honor George Washington; and

18 WHEREAS, the American Forests organization and the Providence Forum partnered with
19 the Georgia Urban Forest Council in selecting Dalton, Georgia, as the most fitting location
20 for Georgia's tree, citing the city's aggressive urban forestry policies and praising the work
21 of the Dalton Tree Board; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia's Liberty Tree was proudly planted in Dalton on October 18, 2006; and

23 WHEREAS, October 18, 2007, was designated "Liberty Tree Day" in Whitfield County,
24 Georgia, by the mayor and council of the City of Dalton and the Board of Commissioners
25 of Whitfield County; and

26 WHEREAS, the tulip poplar planted in Dalton, Georgia, on October 18, 2006, serves as a
27 symbol of the independence and freedom that America fought valiantly for during the
28 Revolutionary War and the ideals and hopes of this country's founding fathers.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
30 GEORGIA that the members join in designating the tulip poplar located adjacent to the City
31 Hall in Dalton, Georgia, to be a direct descendant of the last surviving Liberty Tree and the
32 official Liberty Tree of Georgia.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the mayor of the City of Dalton and the
35 chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Whitfield County.