

House Resolution 695

By: Representatives Sims of the 119th, Burkhalter of the 50th, and Murphy of the 120th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and celebrating the 90th birthday of Honorable Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.;

2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Honorable Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr., was born September 10, 1919,

4 in the 1300 block of Greene Street in Augusta, Georgia, a beloved son of Annie Mae

5 Eubanks Connell and Atticus Jerome Connell, Sr.; and

6 WHEREAS, Honorable Connell graduated from Richmond County Academy in 1936, and

7 attended North Georgia College for two years; and

8 WHEREAS, during the summer of his first year at North Georgia College, while working

9 at his father's car sales business, Honorable Connell's intellect and skill of persuasion saved

10 his life as thieves held him at gunpoint while out on a test drive and he outwitted them in

11 time to escape; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1942, Honorable Connell enlisted in the Army Air Force and upon his

13 graduation as a bombardier from Midland Air Force Base in Texas he was assigned to the

14 386th air group stationed in Colchester, England; and

15 WHEREAS, Honorable Connell participated in 79 bombing missions during World War II

16 and was instrumental in taking out a German gun emplacement off the coast of Normandy

17 on D-Day; and

18 WHEREAS, after graduating from pilot training as a first lieutenant pilot, Honorable Connell

19 established a successful career as a businessman, working his way up from a traveling

20 salesman to owner of the Augusta Rams baseball team, holding a "coon hunt" at Jennings

21 Stadium to promote ticket sales; and

22 WHEREAS, an interest in politics and community service began in 1959 with his work on
23 the Augusta City Council, and in 1969 Honorable Connell was elected to the Georgia House
24 of Representatives; and

25 WHEREAS, after serving as the Majority whip from 1973 to 1976, Honorable Connell was
26 appointed Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, a position he held for 26
27 years before his retirement in 2002, making him the longest serving Speaker Pro Tempore
28 in the history of Georgia and the United States; and

29 WHEREAS, during his years of dedicated service to the people of Georgia, Honorable
30 Connell was a major force in projects such as the creation of the Medical College of
31 Georgia's Children's Medical Center, the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame, the Georgia Radiation
32 Therapy Center, the National Science Center, the Hope Scholarship Fund, the Foster
33 Grandparent Program, the Murray Road expansion, the Augusta-Savannah Parkway, and the
34 accreditation of Augusta College to a four-year university; and

35 WHEREAS, Honorable Connell enjoys his well-deserved retirement from political and
36 public service, spending time with his loving wife Nannette, his four children, Lynn, Atticus,
37 Debbie, and Andrea, and his delightful grandchildren; and

38 WHEREAS, Honorable Connell has made a lasting impact on the State of Georgia and it is
39 abundantly fitting and proper that the members of this body, who regard him with respect and
40 admiration, appropriately recognize their distinguished former colleague and friend on this
41 special occasion in his life.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body join in commending Honorable Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.,
44 on the occasion of his 90th birthday and wishing him many more years of happiness.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Honorable Atticus Jerome
47 "Jack" Connell, Jr.