

Senate Resolution 775

By: Senator Jackson of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Michael O'Neal; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Michael O'Neal has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for
3 the vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the
4 education of the students of Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, a 35-year resident of Savannah, Georgia, Mr. O'Neal is the founder of Parent
6 University and executive director of its management company, Community United Services,
7 Inc.; and

8 WHEREAS, established in 2000 in collaboration with Savannah-Chatham County Public
9 Schools, Parent University is a community based volunteer and nonprofit organization with
10 the goal of forming a bridge between the community and schools; and

11 WHEREAS, this faith based program has attracted over 4,000 participants from the
12 Savannah area and provides practical training for parents and encourages parental
13 involvement in their children's education; and

14 WHEREAS, a Leadership Savannah graduate, Mr. O'Neal managed a pilot program for the
15 City of Savannah called Strong Families Program that gave training to parents of youth who
16 were considered at risk by the schools or the courts; and

17 WHEREAS, a civic leader, Mr. O'Neal is active in several community councils and boards,
18 including the Economic Opportunity Authority Board, the Youth Futures Authority Board,
19 the United Way of the Coastal Empire Board, the Truancy Intervention Project Board, and
20 the American Cancer Society Leadership Board; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding
22 service, including a Friend of Education honoree award from the Phi Delta Kappa

23 Association of Professional Educators, a Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King
24 Junior Observance Day Association, and a Georgia Outstanding Citizen Award from the
25 Georgia Secretary of State; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Neal is united in love and marriage to his wife, Jo-Nell, and they have
27 been blessed with four remarkable children and four grandchildren; and

28 WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions to the students in this state, it is abundantly
29 fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary commitment and accomplishments
30 of this outstanding individual.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 heartily and gratefully commend Mr. Michael O'Neal for his sacrifice, foresight,
33 accomplishment, and contributions on behalf of education in Georgia and for the positive
34 influence he has had upon the lives and futures of countless young people in this state.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Michael O'Neal.