

Senate Resolution 871

By: Senators Pearson of the 51st, Murphy of the 27th, Rogers of the 21st, Mullis of the 53rd and Balfour of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mr. Dan Graveline on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of
2 the Georgia World Congress Center; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Dan Graveline has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the
4 vital role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare
5 of the citizens of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
7 talents, and energy over the past 33 years toward leading this nation's fourth largest
8 convention center, the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC); and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Graveline began his career in the facility management field at the
10 University of Southern Illinois basketball arena while in college and served as an assistant
11 general manager for the Los Angeles Convention Center before joining the Congress Center
12 in 1976; and

13 WHEREAS, named the general manager while the facility was still under construction, Mr.
14 Graveline led the center through its official grand opening in September of 1976 and during
15 his tenure has overseen the completion of three expansions that quadrupled the facility's size;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, over the past three decades, Mr. Graveline has overseen the construction and
18 opening of the Georgia Dome and the development of Centennial Olympic Park; and

19 WHEREAS, his significant organizational and leadership talents have helped Atlanta and the
20 State of Georgia become a hospitality industry leader, drawing conventions and major
21 entertainment and sporting events to the city which have generated more than \$40 billion in
22 economic impact for Atlanta and Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, during his time as executive director, the GWCC has hosted Super Bowls,
24 NCAA Final Four basketball tournaments, and Olympic competitions; and

25 WHEREAS, his remarkable patience and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his
26 sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this state have earned him the respect and
27 admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

28 WHEREAS, although Mr. Graveline's daily presence and guidance will be sorely missed
29 upon his retirement, his influence and legacy will live on at the GWCC for future generations
30 of Georgia residents and visitors and the impact he had upon the hospitality industry and
31 convention business will be forever felt.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 commend Mr. Dan Graveline for his over three decades of efficient, effective, unselfish, and
34 dedicated public service to the State of Georgia and the Georgia World Congress Center;
35 congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his retirement; and extend to him their most
36 sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Dan Graveline.