

Senate Resolution 899

By: Senators Hooks of the 14th, Williams of the 19th, Harbison of the 15th, Hill of the 4th, Thompson of the 33rd and others

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Jerry R. Griffin; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Jerry R. Griffin has long been recognized as a dedicated and enthusiastic leader  
3 who has made it his personal mission to sustain and enhance the role, stature, responsiveness,  
4 and professionalism of local government in Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, as executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia  
6 (ACCG), he has provided strong and enlightened leadership on critical issues facing the state  
7 and its citizens and has advocated the responsible, efficient, and cost-effective provision of  
8 public services at the local level; and

9 WHEREAS, his career with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia spanned  
10 24 years during which time he managed and oversaw the day-to-day operations of the  
11 Association, and, during that time, he moved ACCG from an organization focused primarily  
12 on advocating county interests before the General Assembly to an organization providing a  
13 variety of services to counties including certified training and leadership development  
14 programs for county officials, comprehensive research and public policy development,  
15 promoting county-city cooperation, fostering civic engagement, and promoting youth  
16 leadership programs; and

17 WHEREAS, under his leadership, ACCG also established cost effective services for counties  
18 including group workers compensation insurance, group property and casualty insurance,  
19 group health benefits insurance, risk management services for counties, group purchasing  
20 programs, financing alternatives for county facilities and other capital assets, and pension and  
21 retirement programs and services for local government employees; and

22 WHEREAS, this native son of Spalding County has earned the respect of citizens and leaders  
23 at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels of government for his deep understanding

24 of the substantive aspects of state and local government, and for bringing unmatched  
25 expertise to this body and to the management of Georgia's 159 county governments; and

26 WHEREAS, during his over 40-year career in state and local government he has served on  
27 a multitude of boards, councils, commissions, and committees including the Advisory  
28 Council of the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environment, the Carl  
29 Vinson Institute of Government Advisory Committee, the Georgia State University College  
30 of Public Administration Advisory Committee, the Conference of Southern County  
31 Associations, the National Conference of County Association Executives, the Local  
32 Government Advisory Committee to the EPA Administrator, the board of the Georgia Cities  
33 Foundation, the Livable Communities Coalition, the Georgia Supreme Court Blue Ribbon  
34 Indigent Defense Study Commission, the Georgia Indigent Defense Council, and the Metro  
35 Chamber Quality Growth Task Force, among others; and

36 WHEREAS, he was the first full-time executive director of the Georgia Environmental  
37 Facilities Authority and previously served as a valued assistant to the commissioner of the  
38 Georgia Department of Community Affairs and as intergovernmental relations director for  
39 the Georgia Municipal Association; and

40 WHEREAS, he was recognized by the Blue Key Society of the University of Georgia with  
41 the Blue Key Award in 2009 for civic contributions to the state and to the University of  
42 Georgia; and

43 WHEREAS, his vision, leadership talents, and commitment to the careful consideration of  
44 complex and sensitive public issues has earned him a reputation for honesty, dignity, and fair  
45 play; and

46 WHEREAS, the members of this body, and in particular those who worked closely with him  
47 on so many local government matters, recognize that his consistently thoughtful and  
48 thorough consideration of issues, along with his integrity and reliability, rightfully earned the  
49 respect and trust of this body; and

50 WHEREAS, he has announced his retirement from the Association County Commissioners  
51 of Georgia effective April 30, 2010, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the  
52 outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished Georgian be recognized  
53 appropriately.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
55 commend Jerry R. Griffin for the more than four decades of effective, unselfish, and  
56 dedicated service he has rendered on behalf of the counties and citizens of Georgia; extend  
57 to him their utmost appreciation for his having so truly defined for others the meaning of  
58 public service; congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his retirement; and offer to him  
59 their most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
61 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Jerry R. Griffin.