

## Senate Resolution 90

By: Senators Carter of the 1st and Jackson of the 2nd

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Norton Melaver; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Mr. Norton Melaver on January 27, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Melaver was born in 1926 in Brooklyn, New York, and moved to  
5 Savannah, Georgia, with his family in 1940; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a graduate of Savannah High School, Mr. Melaver attended Armstrong State  
7 College and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
9 States Navy in the medical corps before he returned to Savannah to join his mother in a local  
10 grocery store business called M&M Food Store; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Mr. Melaver dedicated four decades to the business, growing the store to M&M  
12 Supermarkets, a regional chain of 14 grocery stores that employed over 750 people, and later  
13 selling the business to Kroger and opening a sustainable real-estate company called Melaver,  
14 Inc.; and
- 15 WHEREAS, his leadership and guidance were instrumental to numerous community  
16 organizations as president of the Jewish Educational Alliance and the Savannah Jewish  
17 Federation and chairman of the Savannah Port Authority and the Savannah/Hilton Head  
18 Airport Commission; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Mr. Melaver founded many visionary programs and foundations, including the  
20 first joint high school/business partnership program, the Armstrong Foundation, and the  
21 Melaver Foundation; and

22 WHEREAS, he was most proud of being on the forefront of hiring African Americans for  
23 managerial positions at M&M Supermarkets and being the catalyst for significant  
24 governance reform at Memorial Medical Center; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Melaver was united in love and marriage to Betty Stein Melaver, and was  
26 blessed with his remarkable children, Martin and Nirit Melaver, Tovah Melaver, and Ellen  
27 Melaver; and four wonderful grandchildren, Dana, Alon, Ian, and Aliyah; and

28 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
29 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
30 family and friends were admired by others; and

31 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
32 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he  
33 made this world a better place in which to live; and

34 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Melaver will long be remembered for  
35 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, brother, and  
36 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
38 join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. Norton Melaver and express their deepest and  
39 most sincere regret at his passing.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Norton Melaver.