

Senate Resolution 249

By: Senators Tate of the 38th, Fort of the 39th, Davenport of the 44th, Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. James Edward "Billy" McKinney; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Mr. James Edward "Billy" McKinney on July 15, 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, a Georgia native, Mr. McKinney attended Atlanta Public Schools and Clark
6 Atlanta University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; and

7 WHEREAS, fondly known as "Billy" by his family and friends, Mr. McKinney was
8 passionate about education and history, was an avid reader, enjoyed doing research, and was
9 often referred to as a "walking encyclopedia"; and

10 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
11 States Army and was one of the City of Atlanta's first black policemen; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. McKinney was elected to the Georgia State Legislature in 1970 where he
13 served as an elected official for more than 30 years; and

14 WHEREAS, during his tenure under the Gold Dome, Mr. McKinney helped change the
15 legislative landscape of the State of Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, he was active in many organizations, served on numerous boards, and was
17 recognized across the nation and around the world by elected officials, candidates for office,
18 and community leaders, who often sought his political insight, advice, and counsel; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. McKinney was a conscientious public servant, Civil Rights advocate, and
20 political activist who championed causes for justice and equality; and

21 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Leola, and was blessed with
22 three remarkable children, James, Gregory, and Congresswoman Cynthia Ann McKinney;
23 and three wonderful grandchildren, Coy, Morgan, and Lauren; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. McKinney will long be remembered for his love of family and friendship,
25 and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend will be missed by all who had the great
26 fortune of knowing him.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
28 join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. James Edward "Billy" McKinney and express
29 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. James Edward "Billy"
32 McKinney.