

Senate Resolution 256

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Grant of the 25th, Tolleson of the 20th and Jeffares of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of the Honorable Kenneth Wilson Birdsong; 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 the Honorable Kenneth Wilson Birdsong on February 19, 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Birdsong was born in Twiggs County, Georgia, was a lifetime vegetable
6 farmer who was fond of old tractors, and devoted his life to serving others; and

7 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
8 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during World War
9 II and in Korea, and re-enlisted in the Army Reserve 340th Engineer Construction Battalion;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, after his service to this nation, Mr. Birdsong dedicated an amazing 54 years to
12 serving the citizens of Georgia as a Justice of the Peace in Twiggs County, a Twiggs County
13 Commissioner, a state legislator, and a member of the State Veterans Service Board; and

14 WHEREAS, one of this state's longest serving legislators, Mr. Birdsong was elected to the
15 Georgia General Assembly in 1976, serving Georgians as a member of the House of
16 Representatives until his retirement in 2004; and

17 WHEREAS, he served as chairman of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans
18 Affairs, where he demonstrated excellent leadership ability in considering major legislation
19 that affected the men and women of the armed forces and their families; and

20 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Birdsong was an active member of Stone
21 Creek Baptist Church in Dry Branch, where he was known as a selfless statesman and
22 excellent tomato grower; and

23 WHEREAS, he leaves behind many who will cherish his memory, including his children
24 K.O. and Cheryl Birdsong, Steve and Suzanne Birdsong, Roger and Jackie Birdsong, Dianne
25 Hodges and Larry Clark, and Joy and Louis Garcia; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Birdsong was the proud grandfather of Melissa and Jay Touchton, Jason
27 and Janna Gatliff, Rachel Birdsong, Roger Birdsong, Richard and Keeley Thompson, Neal
28 and Jenny Birdsong, Rachel and Ben Crabtree, Michael Birdsong, Angela Birdsong, Brianne
29 Birdsong, Bubba Birdsong, and Nikki and Wyatt Erminger; and

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

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

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 join in honoring the life and memory of the Honorable Kenneth Wilson Birdsong and express
38 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

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