

Senate Resolution 351

By: Senators James of the 35th, Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th, Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending James "Alley Pat" Patrick; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, James "Alley Pat" Patrick was born in Montezuma, Georgia, the son of a
3 Baptist preacher and nurse, and in 1931, his family moved to Atlanta where he graduated
4 from Booker T. Washington High School; and

5 WHEREAS, during the Second World War, Pat was a member of the legendary Tuskegee
6 Airmen, and after the war, he graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in science
7 and pre-med and was set to go on to medical school when he was "discovered" by WERD
8 Radio programming director Ken Knight while calling a bingo game and "jiving" over the
9 loudspeakers; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1954, he joined the staff of WAOK Radio, the country's first 24 hour African
11 American radio station, co-hosting a show with a disc jockey Zenas Sears, who founded the
12 station; and

13 WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Pat left radio to become Atlanta's first black bail bondsman, and
14 he also owned several businesses and worked briefly as a sales rep for a major record
15 company, but by the mid-1970s, Alley Pat was doing a morning drive slot at WXAP-AM,
16 later moving to afternoons on WYZE-AM; and

17 WHEREAS, by the early nineties he could still be heard doing a midnight to 3 A.M. slot on
18 WQXI-AM, but since the early 1980s, he has been expanding into television with WVEU
19 Channel 69's *Alley Pat's Place*, where the same local movers and shakers who were
20 repeatedly made fun of on his radio show were grilled by a now relatively genial host; and

21 WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Pat's TV show moved to Atlanta's Public Access channel, where
22 it is now seen twice a week; and

23 WHEREAS. although his stock in trade was sharp, funny ridicule of the city's powers that
24 be, he sometimes sought change through traditional politics, and he was the first African
25 American to run, albeit unsuccessfully, for sheriff of Fulton County and for the Board of
26 Commissioners; and

27 WHEREAS,. Mr. Patrick continues to reside in Atlanta, where he retains an aura of
28 notoriety.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 commend James "Alley Pat" Patrick.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to James "Alley Pat" Patrick.