

Senate Resolution 229

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Williams of the 19th, Chance of the 16th, Shafer of the 48th, Tolleson of the 20th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Senator Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr.; 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 Senator Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr., on January 1, 2013; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Senator Gillis was born on September 6, 1918, in Soperton, Georgia, the
- 5 beloved son of former state highway director Jim Gillis, Sr., and the cherished grandson of
- 6 Treutlen County Cofounder Neil Lee Gillis, Sr.; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he attended Georgia Military College and graduated from the University of
- 8 Georgia with a degree in agriculture; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Senator Gillis was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1941 and
- 10 then to the Georgia State Senate in 1957 and 1962, a seat he held for the next 42 years, six
- 11 of which he would serve as President Pro Tempore; and
- 12 WHEREAS, by the end of his career, Senator Gillis had worked with 13 different Governors
- 13 and spent more than 55 years serving the Georgia General Assembly, making him the longest
- 14 serving member; and
- 15 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the legislature, Senator Gillis's proudest accomplishments
- 16 included work on the creation of the Dental School at the Medical College of Georgia in
- 17 Augusta, the creation of Mercer Medical School in Macon, Georgia, and the mission to
- 18 deliver health care to rural Georgia; he served on the initial board of trustees for the Mercer
- 19 Medical School and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from the school in 2001; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Senator Gillis served on the board of trustees of Brewton Parker College in Mt.
- 21 Vernon, Georgia, was a charter member of the Treutlen County Farm Bureau, and was a
- 22 member of the Georgia Forestry Association and Soperton Lions Club; and

23 WHEREAS, he was deeply gratified to have the Regional Medical Technology Center at
24 Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, named in his honor; and

25 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Senator Gillis was an active member of First
26 Baptist Church of Soperton where he served as deacon and a member of the R.A. Perry
27 Sunday School Class; and

28 WHEREAS, Senator Gillis was united in love and marriage to Mrs. Laura Jean Gillis and
29 Mrs. Montez Champion Gillis and was blessed with three remarkable children, Hugh Jr.,
30 Donald, and Jeanmarie; and

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

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 join in honoring the life and memory of Senator Hugh Marion Gillis, Sr., and express their
36 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Senator Hugh Marion
39 Gillis, Sr.