

Senate Resolution 231

By: Senators Davis of the 22nd, Stone of the 23rd and Jackson of the 24th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Speaker Pro Tempore Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
4 with the passing of Speaker Pro Tempore Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr., on February  
5 6, 2013, at the age of 93; and

6 WHEREAS, Speaker Connell was an Augusta businessman known for his warm smile,  
7 humble sincerity, and longtime legislative service; and

8 WHEREAS, after he graduated from the Academy of Richmond County in 1936, Speaker  
9 Connell attended North Georgia College for two years; and

10 WHEREAS, one of his favorite stories to tell from his years as a student was the occasion  
11 of his kidnapping when he was 17 years old; three men stole a car from the motor company  
12 where his father worked and held Speaker Connell captive in the back seat, but he managed  
13 to escape through sheer luck and determination; and

14 WHEREAS, Speaker Connell worked for Georgia Railroad Bank in Augusta until 1942,  
15 when he enlisted in the Army Air Force and served in World War II in the 386th air group  
16 stationed in Colchester, England; and

17 WHEREAS, he was a true American hero whose crew, upon receiving orders two days  
18 before the D-Day invasion of Normandy to return to the United States, unanimously voted  
19 to remain and participate; and

20 WHEREAS, after World War II, Speaker Connell returned home to become a traveling  
21 salesman and later began several Augusta businesses, including a temporary employment  
22 agency, a print shop, and Sandwich City; he even ran Augusta's minor league baseball team,

23 citing his responsibility to the team as "a labor of love" and influencing the team's name  
24 change from the Augusta Tigers to the Augusta Rams; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1969, he began his first term in the Georgia House of Representatives, where  
26 his leadership roles would make him a key player in the budget process; he served as Speaker  
27 Pro Tempore for 26 years before retiring; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
29 for dignity, initiative, and service, and this true gentleman will long be remembered for his  
30 inspiring dedication and exemplary leadership.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 honor the life and memory of Speaker Pro Tempore Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.,  
33 extend their heartfelt condolences to his family, and express their sincere regret at his  
34 passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Speaker Pro Tempore  
37 Atticus Jerome "Jack" Connell, Jr.