

## Senate Resolution 739

By: Senators Hill of the 32nd, Shafer of the 48th, Staton of the 18th, Carter of the 1st, Tolleson of the 20th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 To commend the Nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the  
2 United States and with the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Israel has been granted her lands under and through the oldest recorded deed,  
4 as recorded in the Old Testament, a tome of scripture held sacred and revered by Jews and  
5 Christians, alike, as presenting the acts and words of God; and

6 WHEREAS, the claim and presence of the Jewish people in Israel has remained constant  
7 throughout the past 4,000 years of history; and

8 WHEREAS, the legal basis for the establishment of the modern State of Israel was a binding  
9 act of international law established in the San Remo Resolution, which was unanimously  
10 adopted by the League of Nations in 1922 and subsequently affirmed by both houses of the  
11 United States Congress; and

12 WHEREAS, this resolution affirmed the establishment of a national home for the Jewish  
13 people in the historical region of the Land of Israel, including the areas of Judea, Samaria,  
14 and Jerusalem; and

15 WHEREAS, Article 80 of the United Nations charter recognized the continued validity of  
16 the rights granted to states or peoples which already existed under international instruments,  
17 and, therefore, the 1922 League of Nations resolution remains valid, and the 650,000 Jews  
18 currently residing in the areas of Judea, Samaria, and eastern Jerusalem reside there  
19 legitimately; and

20 WHEREAS, Israel declared its independence and self-governance on May 14, 1948, with the  
21 goal of reestablishing its God-given and legally recognized lands as a homeland for the  
22 Jewish people; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States, having been the first country to recognize Israel as an  
24 independent nation and as Israel's principal ally, has enjoyed a close and mutually beneficial  
25 relationship with Israel and her people; and

26 WHEREAS, Israel is the greatest friend and ally of the United States in the Middle East, and  
27 the values of our two nations are so intertwined that it is impossible to separate one from the  
28 other; and

29 WHEREAS, there are those in the Middle East who have continually sought to destroy Israel,  
30 from the time of its inception as a state, and those same enemies of Israel also hate and seek  
31 to destroy the United States; and

32 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia and Israel have enjoyed cordial and mutually beneficial  
33 relations since 1948, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

34 WHEREAS, there is a special bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and Israel  
35 that inspires the people of Georgia to stand with the people of Israel in solidarity and  
36 welcome all opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels, including  
37 cultural, academic, and business endeavors; and

38 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to serve as home to the Israeli Consulate General for the  
39 Southeast; and

40 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be the home of over 45 Israeli companies that employ more  
41 than 2,000 people; and

42 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Economic Development operates an established  
43 trade office in Israel; and

44 WHEREAS, the cities of Atlanta, Georgia, and Ra'anana, Israel, are official sister cities; and

45 WHEREAS, the 2008 Atlanta Jewish Film Festival sold 15,000 tickets to its 12 days of  
46 movies at three locations, smashing the 2007 record of 9,000 tickets, making Atlanta's  
47 festival the number two Jewish film festival in the nation behind San Francisco and making  
48 the festival the most attended film festival of any kind in Atlanta; and

49 WHEREAS, the Georgia Institute of Technology is involved in a joint initiative with Israel  
50 in developing nanotechnology, a research sector in which Israel is emerging as a global  
51 leader; and

52 WHEREAS, Georgia State University and the Georgia International Law Enforcement  
53 Exchange have an established program with law enforcement agencies in Israel; and

54 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have a  
55 program to close the gap of time between acts of terror and governmental response by  
56 studying the ways in which a society that has long been subject to political violence has  
57 addressed the effects of such violence on its peoples; and

58 WHEREAS, Israel is a top export destination for Georgia with exports totaling over \$212  
59 million, including transportation equipment, paper, computer and electronics equipment,  
60 beverages and tobacco products, and machinery; and

61 WHEREAS, Georgia imports over \$337 million from Israel through the Savannah Customs  
62 District with top imports, including optical, surgical, and photo equipment; organic  
63 chemicals; furniture; electrical machinery; and plastics; and

64 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines connects Georgia and Israel with regular flight service,  
65 providing the opportunity for business and cultural relationships to grow; and

66 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be a leader in the Israel Bonds program; and

67 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust works to draw lessons from the  
68 history of the Holocaust in order to help lead new generations of Georgians beyond racism  
69 and bigotry; and

70 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to chapters of the American Israel Chamber of  
71 Commerce, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the American Jewish Committee,  
72 the Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, and the Jewish National  
73 Fund.

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
75 commend Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States  
76 and with the State of Georgia and support Israel in its legal, historical, moral, and God-given

77 right of self-governance and self-defense upon the entirety of its own lands, recognizing that  
78 Israel is neither an attacking force nor an occupier of the lands of others, and that peace can  
79 be afforded the region only through a whole and united Israel.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
81 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Israeli Ambassador to the United  
82 States.