

Senate Resolution 922

By: Senator Shafer of the 48th

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of J. Mack Robinson; 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 J. Mack Robinson; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a legendary businessman, J. Mack Robinson enjoyed one of the most colorful  
5 professional lives of any businessman in Atlanta, experiencing the worlds of banking,  
6 insurance, fashion design, media, horse racing, and other diverse business sectors; and
- 7 WHEREAS, in 1998, Georgia State University named its business school the J. Mack  
8 Robinson College of Business; as the ultimate entrepreneur and business leader, it was a  
9 fitting way for J. Mack Robinson's legacy to be permanently recognized; and
- 10 WHEREAS, J. Mack Robinson is said to have begun his career when he was ten years old,  
11 working as a "helper" at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; by the age of 15, he had secured  
12 a position as a circulation manager in the newspaper's downtown office; and
- 13 WHEREAS, in the mid-1960's, Robinson began buying local banks in small towns around  
14 Atlanta, eventually owning 22 banks in the region with branches in more than 50 cities; in  
15 1972, he sold more than 100 of his finance offices to First National Bank of Atlanta, which  
16 was later acquired by Wachovia Bank, whereupon he became a director of the bank and its  
17 largest individual shareholder; and
- 18 WHEREAS, J. Mack Robinson helped struggling fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent in the  
19 early 1960's start his own fashion house, writing personal checks to the designer to make sure  
20 the he could meet payroll and keep the fashion house afloat; J. Mack Robinson would travel  
21 to France several times a year, and Saint Laurent ended up designing his daughter's wedding  
22 dress; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1994, the Georgia Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives  
24 named J. Mack Robinson, along with his wife Nita and their daughters Jill and Robin, as  
25 Philanthropists of the Year; the family has also made major donations to the Westminster  
26 Schools and Oglethorpe University; and J. Mack Robinson served as a director of the  
27 Woodruff Arts Center and as a life member of the board of directors of the High Museum  
28 of Art; and

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

32 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
33 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he  
34 made this world a better place in which to live; and

35 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, J. Mack Robinson will long be remembered  
36 for his love of family and friendship, and this loyal gentleman and friend will be missed by  
37 all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
39 join in honoring the life and memory of J. Mack Robinson and express their deepest and  
40 most sincere regret at his passing.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
42 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of J. Mack Robinson.