

Senate Resolution 932

By: Senators Davis of the 22nd and Stone of the 23rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Parade of Quartets; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Parade of Quartets has been an outlet through which many local and
3 national artists and church choirs have displayed their talents; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the program has also served as a community outreach platform, providing vital
5 and timely information as well as spiritual enrichment to residents of the Central Savannah
6 River Area; and
- 7 WHEREAS, on Saturday, March 1, 2014, local and national artists, record label
8 representatives and corporate sponsors, and the viewing audience will gather at the Marriott
9 Augusta Convention Center for the Parade of Quartets' 60th Anniversary Diamond
10 Celebration to recognize and honor leaders, pioneer groups, and individuals who have made
11 a difference in the community; and
- 12 WHEREAS, proceeds from the event will benefit the Henry L. Howard Educational Fund;
13 and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Parade of Quartets, originally hosted by Steve Manderson, began in the
15 1950's in the transition of WJBF radio to television under the leadership of J. B. Fuqua and
16 featured African American gospel groups; and
- 17 WHEREAS, some of the original groups to appear on the program included the Abraham
18 Brothers, Swanee Quintet, Veteran Harmonizers, and the Gospel Echo Soul Stirrers; and
- 19 WHEREAS, groups would sing, discuss their sponsor, and express the benefits of
20 fundraising projects for various churches and groups; and

21 WHEREAS, upon the retirement of Steve Manderson, Henry L. Howard became the Parade
22 of Quartets' host and producer, and was the lead singer and manager of the Spirits of
23 Harmony, who were regulars to the program; and

24 WHEREAS, Henry L. Howard made various improvements to the program, including adding
25 a morning prayer, promoting minority businesses, and incorporating a community service
26 segment called "Past, Present, Future"; and

27 WHEREAS, the Parade of Quartets' current host and producer, Karlton Howard, has
28 maintained the legacy of his father and has added a weekly Sunday school lesson to the
29 program; and

30 WHEREAS, the nine o'clock morning hour in the Augusta area has long been blessed by the
31 Parade of Quartets, which is thought to be one of the longest continuous running programs
32 in the United States.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize the 60th anniversary of the Parade of Quartets and express their sincerest best
35 wishes of continued success.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Parade of Quartets.