

Senate Resolution 1050

By: Senators Thompson of the 33rd and Tippins of the 37th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Billy L. Townsend; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Billy Townsend was educated in Georgia public schools in Paulding and Polk
3 counties and graduated from Mount Berry School for Boys in 1962 and Berry College in
4 1966 with a major in history and minors in social science and education; and

5 WHEREAS, he began his Georgia State Government public service as a staff historian for
6 the Georgia Historical Commission in January 1970, researching and writing exhibit plans
7 for the 27 state historic sites, managing the State Historic Marker Program, and preparing
8 major museum plans for the Historical Commission, such as the Dahlonega Gold Museum,
9 Fort McAllister, New Echota, and Waynesboro Historical Museum; and

10 WHEREAS, he became chief historian in 1974, writing numerous speeches for the parks
11 director, commissioner, and on several occasions for public figures invited to speak at formal
12 occasions in the system, notably the commemoration of the death of Franklin Roosevelt; he
13 also wrote draft speeches for Lieutenant Governor Zell Miller, Lieutenant Governor Pierre
14 Howard, Representative Larry Walker, and Justice Robert Benham; and

15 WHEREAS, he has served on several task forces, including the technical task force for the
16 extension of the Cherokee Trail of Tears under provisions of the National Historic Trails Act,
17 and on many technical task forces that analyzed proposed sites for state parks and historic
18 sites; and

19 WHEREAS, Billy's significant organizational and leadership talents, his remarkable patience
20 and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of this
21 state have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and associates; and

22 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
23 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 recognize and commend Billy L. Townsend for his incredible career as chief historian for the
26 State Parks and Historic Sites Division of the Department of Natural Resources and for his
27 countless historical contributions to the State of Georgia.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Billy L. Townsend.