

Senate Resolution 1168

By: Senators Golden of the 8th and Harper of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Robert M. Williams, Jr., of Blackshear upon his service
2 as president of National Newspaper Association; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Robert M. Williams, Jr., is currently president of National Newspaper
4 Association, a newspaper industry trade association representing more than 2,000
5 newspapers throughout the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1971, at the age of 20, he became the youngest newspaper publisher in
7 Georgia when he purchased *The Blackshear Times* and since then has operated thriving
8 community newspapers that have employed and informed citizens in communities in south
9 Georgia for more than 40 years; and

10 WHEREAS, his newspapers have been honored with more than 300 state and national
11 awards for journalistic excellence, and he was personally honored as the 2007 recipient of
12 National Newspaper Association's James O. Amos Award, the highest honor given nationally
13 by the community newspaper industry; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams has been a champion of transparency in government and access
15 to public information throughout his distinguished career as a journalist, including service
16 as a member of the board of the national Public Notice Resource Center in Washington,
17 D.C.; and

18 WHEREAS, he has held numerous leadership roles in his community and his industry,
19 including service on the Blackshear City Council and as president of Georgia Press
20 Association, and has received recognition from his local chamber of commerce for
21 outstanding contributions to economic development and education; and

22 WHEREAS, community newspapers are some of the most important businesses in their
23 communities, often serving as the only source for important local news, information, and

24 advertising, and Mr. Williams has dedicated his life tirelessly to the betterment of both
25 institutions.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 commend Mr. Robert M. Williams, Jr., for his many years of leadership and service to his
28 community and industry as a publisher of community newspapers and congratulate him for
29 becoming president of National Newspaper Association.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Robert M. Williams, Jr.