

## House Resolution 1713

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Bryant of the 162<sup>nd</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Gordon of the 163<sup>rd</sup>, Stephens of the 165<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the memory of Judge John Woodward Sognier and expressing regret at his passing;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, news of the passing of Judge John Woodward Sognier is received with deep  
4 regret by this body; and

5 WHEREAS, the life led by this distinguished gentleman of 94 years rendered his name dear  
6 to the hearts of his family, friends, and fellow citizens alike; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Sognier was a native of Savannah, Georgia. He was born December 17,  
8 1919 to Joseph W. Sognier and Viola Trott Sognier, both natives of Savannah. Judge  
9 Sognier was educated in the public schools and graduated from Savannah High School. He  
10 attended Columbus University Law School in Washington, D.C. (now Catholic University).  
11 Later Judge Sognier attended Emory University and was awarded an LLM degree (Masters  
12 of Law in Taxation); and

13 WHEREAS, he entered the armed forces in January, 1941, and was commissioned in the  
14 Infantry. Transferring to the Air Force, he served as a fighter pilot flying 59 missions in the  
15 European Theater. Later he commanded a fighter squadron in India-Burma. Judge Sognier  
16 served on recall in the Air Force during the Korean War and was the recipient of several Air  
17 Medals as well as the Distinguished Flying Cross; and

18 WHEREAS, after World War II, Judge Sognier was admitted to the Georgia Bar January 1,  
19 1946, and began practice with the Savannah firm of Kennedy, Jenkins and Oliver. The firm  
20 later became Kennedy and Sognier and Judge Sognier remained with the firm until 1980  
21 when he was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals; and

22 WHEREAS, he served in the General Assembly of Georgia 1955-56, was Chatham County  
23 Registrar 1957-60, and Chatham County Attorney 1960-68. A trial lawyer, Judge Sognier

24 was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He served on the Board of Bar  
25 Examiners 1974-79 and the Fitness Committee 1978-80; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1980 Judge Sognier was appointed to the Court of Appeals of Georgia by  
27 Governor George Busbee. Elected to a six-year term, in 1981, Judge Sognier was reelected  
28 in 1986 for a second six-year term and retired as Chief Judge in 1992. Following his  
29 retirement from the Court, Judge Sognier practiced tax law with Chamberlain, Hrdlicka,  
30 White, Williams & Martin for nine years. During the same period he handled arbitrations  
31 and mediations for JAMS and Henning Mediation Services in Atlanta and numerous asbestos  
32 cases for a trustee in bankruptcy. He retired from active practice in 2005; and

33 WHEREAS, Judge Sognier, an Episcopalian, was former Senior Warden of Christ Church,  
34 Savannah, a Mason (33rd degree), and a Shriner; and

35 WHEREAS, Judge Sognier is survived by his wife of 28 years, Loretto Boswell Sognier; his  
36 daughter, Anne Sognier Murray (Dr. Morgan W. Murray); grandsons, Morgan W. Murray,  
37 Jr. and Charles Gray Murray; and granddaughter, Mollie Wilson Murray; and

38 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his son, 1st Lieutenant John Woodward Sognier, Jr.,  
39 who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967, leaving a daughter, Jessica Sognier Osborne  
40 (Dr. William E. Osborne), and three great-grandchildren, John Sognier Osborne, Emily Anne  
41 Osborne, and Henry Elton Osborne; and

42 WHEREAS, while in life Judge Sognier commanded the esteem of his fellow Georgians, in  
43 his death we mingle our sympathies with the grief of his family, friends, and fellow citizens.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
45 the members of this body honor the memory of Judge John Woodward Sognier and express  
46 their regret at his passing.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
48 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Judge John  
49 Woodward Sognier.