

Senate Resolution 60

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Watson of the 1st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Lucius "Bo" Levett; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Lucius "Bo" Levett began his exemplary athletic career in Savannah, Georgia,
3 where he played football and basketball at A.E. Beach High School and was a local standout.
4 During his attendance at and after graduating from Beach High, he played for the Frank
5 Callen Boys Club, the local Jets, and several other basketball teams; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1963, Levett was hired by the Savannah Police Department, founded the
7 Policemen's Athletic Association of Savannah in October, 1964, to expand recreational
8 opportunities for the city youths, and coached several successful/winning Cloverdale
9 neighborhood football and basketball teams through 1968; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1966, Levett was assigned to the Savannah Police Department's Community
11 Relations Unit #2, which served as a juvenile crime prevention unit on the westside of the
12 city at the Bethlehem Community Center, and during this time, he formed the Savannah
13 Police Athletic League (PAL) and started to field teams of every age group; and

14 WHEREAS, at its peak, the Savannah PAL sponsored 15 basketball teams, seven football
15 teams, two boys softball teams and one girls softball team; team members had to maintain
16 good grades and conduct at school and display strong character at all times to remain on a
17 team; and

18 WHEREAS, Levett served as a mentor, father figure, and advisor to many young people who
19 struggled to find success in the world and brought out the very best performance in athletes;
20 he encouraged them, both in the game and beyond it, to put forth their best efforts, to be
21 strong and brave in the face of formidable opposition, and to work diligently toward
22 achievement of their goals; and

23 WHEREAS, his Savannah PAL basketball team won its first national championship in
24 Newark, New Jersey, in March, 1968; and

25 WHEREAS, for 23 years, Levett took basketball teams to national tournaments, bringing
26 home national championship awards 19 of those years, and they took second place honors
27 in two of those tournaments; and

28 WHEREAS, parents, community leaders, and many local businesses and organizations
29 supported the teams' annual travels to these tournaments and their community service
30 projects; and

31 WHEREAS, he left the Savannah Police Department in 1985 and began a career with the
32 Harlem Globetrotters as the equipment manager and referee, traveling to more than 122
33 countries with the team, and between tours of duty, he met with coaches and former players
34 to offer advice or serve as an assistant coach as needed; and

35 WHEREAS, in March, 1996, Levett was inducted into the A.E. Beach High School's Athletic
36 Hall of Fame in recognition of his athletic coaching accomplishments; and

37 WHEREAS, since the mid-1960s, he has maintained a local referee association, offering
38 officiating services at the local, state, and regional levels, and for a period of time, he also
39 was part owner of a semi-pro football team in Roanoke, Virginia; and

40 WHEREAS, Levett has proven to be a leader of the highest caliber, a catalyst who motivated
41 young athletes and those around him to exceed their personal expectations, to attempt
42 seemingly unattainable goals, to demonstrate an exceptionally competitive nature, and to
43 perform as a team made of many cohesive parts; and

44 WHEREAS, Lucius "Bo" Levett's legacy is marked by the hundreds of former athletes who
45 played for him, the large number who coached alongside him, the number who learned
46 officiating from him, and countless young people who learned their own potential through
47 his coaching; and

48 WHEREAS, he taught his players that discipline, dedication, sportsmanship, respect for the
49 game, and love of family are valuable components of being a winner on and off the court,
50 and his record and reputation shows he succeeded in his dream of "building boys rather than
51 repairing men."

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
53 commend Lucius "Bo" Levett for his contributions to his community and the State of
54 Georgia.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
56 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Lucius "Bo" Levett.