

## House Resolution 1421

By: Representatives Williamson of the 115<sup>th</sup>, Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, Sims of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of John Phinizy Stevens; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, John Phinizy Stevens lived a long and prosperous life; he passed away on  
3 January 28, 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, while his family and friends mourn his death, he will be remembered for his  
5 second career as a public policy affairs expert who walked the halls of the Georgia Capitol  
6 for many years and had an impact on many of the state's banking and corporate laws; and

7 WHEREAS, John Phinizy Stevens was born in Americus, Georgia, in 1929, the beloved son  
8 of Morgan and Maggie Sue Stevens; and

9 WHEREAS, due to his father's death at an early age, as a youth Mr. Stevens, with the help  
10 of his mother, learned to become self-sufficient and very independent; and

11 WHEREAS, he enjoyed a great education, having graduated from Americus High School  
12 where he played football and was a runner on his school's track and field team; and

13 WHEREAS, he completed his education at the Emory campus in Valdosta and later  
14 graduated from Emory University in Atlanta; and

15 WHEREAS, he enjoyed a very rewarding career in the financial industry, beginning his  
16 banking career with the First National Bank of Atlanta in 1950, and ending his corporate life  
17 when he retired as Executive Vice President of the Government Division of Wachovia Bank  
18 in 1994; and

19 WHEREAS, his career offered him a multitude of opportunities to work with many of  
20 Georgia's 20th and 21st century leaders, with one of his longest and strongest associations  
21 being with the late House Speaker, Thomas B. Murphy; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens also participated in a number of business ventures and business  
23 associations including the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Bankers Association,  
24 and many others. He also enjoyed a number of associations with charitable entities and  
25 among those included work with the Boys & Girls Clubs; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens had a great love of the outdoors and, in particular, enjoyed  
27 spending time hunting quail, riding his John Deere tractor, tending to his cows, and playing  
28 with his dogs; and

29 WHEREAS, he mightily enjoyed flying an airplane, and probably enjoyed that activity more  
30 than almost anything after learning to fly a crop duster at the age of 12; he could often share  
31 stories about various small airports where he had landed; and

32 WHEREAS, he had a number interesting quotations and stories, but one of his favorite  
33 sayings was, "Success requires no explanation, failure permits no alibi."; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens was a quiet, proud family man and enjoyed his children and  
35 grandchildren and he adored his wife, Joyce Carter Stevens.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
37 the members of this body honor and pay tribute to the late John Phinzy Stevens for his years  
38 of efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated service to various businesses, charitable  
39 entities, and the citizens of this state, and extend their most sincere sympathy at his passing.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mrs.  
42 Joyce Carter Stevens.