

Senate Resolution 1117

By: Senator Shafer of the 48th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 1 as Georgia's Phil Payne Day of Independence; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Phil Payne, who was born on November 5, 1949, in Toccoa, Georgia, and
3 passed away on November 2, 2013, acquired a significant disabling condition at the age of
4 20 following a diving accident but went on to live a fulfilling life with the help of family,
5 friends, and personal care workers; and

6 WHEREAS, after rehabilitation, he went back to school, earning a Bachelor of Science
7 degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a
8 graduate degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Georgia State University; and

9 WHEREAS, while earning his graduate degree, Mr. Payne worked and interned at the
10 Veterans Administration Hospital; after graduation, he pursued a career with the State of
11 Georgia in Vocational Rehabilitation Services as a Rehabilitation Counselor, disability civil
12 rights administrator, and program manager for more than 20 years; and

13 WHEREAS, retiring from the state in 1996, he continued to volunteer with nonprofit
14 community organizations, providing peer support and education to newly injured people at
15 the Shepherd Center; he served on the governing board of Friends of Disabled Children and
16 Adults and worked with Citizen Advocacy of Atlanta and DeKalb, an agency that matches
17 valued citizens with people with disabilities who are vulnerable to isolation and exploitation;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Payne's life embodies the sacred American values of a solid work ethic and
20 meaningful contributions to society through volunteerism and civic engagement; and

21 WHEREAS, people with significant disabling conditions often require the assistance of
22 others to live as independently as possible; and

23 WHEREAS, securing and sustaining a meaningful career combined with an active civic life
24 is challenging for everyone but can be overwhelming for people requiring daily assistance
25 from others; and

26 WHEREAS, in his 20 year career with Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Mr. Phil Payne
27 was a powerful role model to others with disabilities; and

28 WHEREAS, October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize October 1 as Georgia's Phil Payne Day of Independence.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
33 press.