

House Resolution 652

By: Representatives Gurtler of the 8th, Bonner of the 72nd, Clark of the 98th, Belton of the 112th, Deffenbaugh of the 1st, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Major Leon Davenport; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Major Leon Davenport on January 5, 2017; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Major Leon Davenport was born on December 9, 1926, in Union County,
5 Georgia, a beloved son of John Prescott Davenport and Ethel Lee Souther Davenport; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he grew up in Union County, Georgia, and began his distinguished military
7 career in 1944 where he worked his way through the ranks from Private to Major over his
8 22 years of service; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he was married to the former Barbara Hooper Twiggs on September 18, 1953,
10 and they were blessed with two children, Cayce and Douglas, who they both adored; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he served admirably in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and
12 the Cold War as a rifleman, tanker, platoon leader, company commander, and as his
13 battalion's executive officer over the course of his career; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Major Davenport received numerous military awards over the years including
15 three Silver Stars, one Bronze Star with V for Valor, one Bronze Star for Meritorious
16 Service, a Purple Heart, an Air Medal with Nine Oak Leaf clusters, an Army Commendation
17 Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, an American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
18 Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation
19 Medal (Japan 1945-1950), National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with
20 Nine Battle Stars, United Nations Korea Service Medal, Republic of Korea Service Medal,
21 a Vietnamese Order of Gallantry with Silver Star, Vietnamese Service Medal with three
22 Battle Stars, Vietnamese Armor Badge, the U.S. Combat Infantry Badge with one Star, and
23 a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for combat in Korea; and

24 WHEREAS, Major Davenport retired from the United States Army in August of 1972 and
25 took the position of Administrator of Union General Hospital in his hometown of Blairsville,
26 Georgia, until he retired in 1993, 21 years later; and

27 WHEREAS, it is believed by many in the community that Mr. Davenport's administration
28 of Union General Hospital is what made the hospital what it is today by recruiting some of
29 the best doctors and staff, obtaining grant funding, starting the nursing home, creating the
30 first Ambulance Service, and starting and organizing the Ladies Auxiliary, all of which have
31 saved many lives through the years; and

32 WHEREAS, Major Leon Davenport will long be remembered for his military service, his
33 service to the community, his dedication to a better health care system in Union County, his
34 love for his family, his devotion to his faith and church, and his friendship.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Major Leon Davenport and
37 express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 family of Major Leon Davenport.