

Senate Resolution 533

By: Senators Cowser of the 46th, Beach of the 21st and Ginn of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing August 28, 2017, as Ben T. Epps and Zumpt A. Huff Day in the State of
2 Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Athens natives Ben T. Epps and Zumpt A. Huff are colloquially known as
4 "Georgia's own Wright brothers"; and

5 WHEREAS, Epps and Huff were the first Georgians to build and fly an airplane; and

6 WHEREAS, the two Georgians were not duly credited with their miraculous achievement
7 of building and flying the first single wing "monoplane" in the United States on August 28,
8 1909; and

9 WHEREAS, this honor is incorrectly attributed by the National Aviation Hall of Fame to
10 Long Island resident Henry W. Walden's 30-foot flight, 106 days after Epps successfully
11 flew 50-feet in the plane he and Huff designed and built; and

12 WHEREAS, Athens newspaper accounts documented this achievement by the then
13 21-year-old Epps and 19-year-old Huff; and

14 WHEREAS, Athens author Dan Aldridge documented Epps' and Huff's achievements in his
15 book *To Lasso the Clouds: The Beginning of Aviation in Georgia*; and

16 WHEREAS, these two accomplished men lived in Athens, Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, the Athens-Ben Epps Airport is named for this accomplished Georgian; and

18 WHEREAS, Epps Aviation at the DeKalb-Peachtree Airport is named for the youngest of
19 Ben Epps' ten children.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
21 recognize August 28, 2017, as Ben T. Epps and Zumpt A. Huff Day in the State of Georgia.

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