

Senate Resolution 566

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Ginn of the 47th, Miller of the 49th, Lucas of the 26th, Harper of the 7th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Willie "Bill" Usery, Jr.; 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 Willie "Bill" Usery, Jr., on December 10, 2016; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Willie was born on December 21, 1923, in Hardwick, Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, after attending the Georgia Military College, he served as a guardian of this
6 nation's freedom and liberty with the United States Navy, valiantly and courageously
7 protecting his fellow Americans for three years; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
9 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community, state, and country as evidenced
10 dramatically by his superlative public service; and
- 11 WHEREAS, throughout his life and career, Bill held many leadership positions, including
12 cofounder of Local Lodge 8 of the International Association of Machinists and chairman of
13 a labor-management council in the IAM at the Kennedy Space Center; and
- 14 WHEREAS, in 1969, President Richard Nixon nominated Bill to Assistant Secretary of
15 Labor, and later he was appointed as director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation
16 Service and then United States Secretary of Labor; and
- 17 WHEREAS, an invaluable leader and advisor, many sought Bill's wisdom, including
18 President Bill Clinton, who appointed him as a mediator during a strike in the MLB, and he
19 has earned distinction and numerous awards and honors, including the Lifetime Achievement
20 Award from the Labor and Employment Relations Association in 1999 and a building at
21 Georgia Military College established in his name; and

22 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
23 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
24 family and friends were admired by others; and

25 WHEREAS, Bill was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
26 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
27 made this world a better place in which to live; and

28 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, he will long be remembered for his love
29 of family and friendship and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 join in honoring the life and memory of Willie "Bill" Usery, Jr., and express their deepest and
32 most sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
35 Willie "Bill" Usery, Jr.