

## Senate Resolution 1006

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Stone of the 23rd, Jackson of the 2nd and Henson of the 41st

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Dr. Charles Wesley Bonds II; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Charles Wesley Bonds II became the first black professor at Georgia  
3 Southern University in 1973 and retired in 1996 as full Professor Emeritus, thereby also  
4 becoming the first black professor to earn full professorship in 1991; and

5 WHEREAS, despite being blind, Professor Bonds became known as the "Reading Professor"  
6 through his giving stuffed animals, known as "reading buddies," to children as he read to  
7 them in full academic attire; and

8 WHEREAS, he received a bachelors' in elementary education and a minor in social sciences  
9 from Alabama State University and then went on to receive his masters' and specialization  
10 in reading education from Georgia Southern University; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Bonds was united in love and marriage to his wife Lella, and they were  
12 blessed with one remarkable son, Charles, and one wonderful granddaughter, Charlize; and

13 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Dr. Bonds is a 44 year member at Original  
14 First African Baptist Church, where he served as deacon, assistant superintendent, choir  
15 member, and Sunday school teacher, and cofounded its brotherhood and food ministries, the  
16 latter of which is now known as the Outreach program; and

17 WHEREAS, he served on the Bulloch County Board of Education District 5 for 16 years and  
18 has overseen the construction of all recently built schools in that area and has held  
19 membership in the Bulloch Historical Society for 13 years, as well as the United Way,  
20 Sta-Buc, NAACP, and several other civic organizations; and

21 WHEREAS, he served as the coordinator for the Learning Analysis Center at Georgia  
22 Southern University and headed up numerous programs there, including the Right to Read

23 Project and was the adviser for the Black Student Alliance, the AAC Club, GSU's choir, the  
24 Good News Bible Study, and several fraternities including Alpha Upsilon Alpha; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Bonds founded the National Honor Society in Reading Education, and has  
26 garnered numerous awards and honors, including a University Honors Award in 1994, the  
27 Deen Day Smith Service Award, and the Citizen of the Year Award on behalf of the Omega  
28 Psi Phi Fraternity; and

29 WHEREAS, hundreds of now successful students that he once oversaw still sing his praises,  
30 and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this exemplary citizen be appropriately recognized  
31 for his efforts in improving education within the State of Georgia, and for his various lifetime  
32 achievements.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 recognize and commend Dr. Charles Wesley Bonds II.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Charles  
37 Wesley Bonds II.