

Senate Resolution 1097

By: Senators Tillery of the 19th, Hill of the 4th, Mullis of the 53rd, Henson of the 41st, Miller of the 49th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Jim L. Gillis, Jr., and his exemplary service to the
2 community; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Jim L. Gillis, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim was born on October 2, 1916, the eldest of two sons of Jim L. Gillis, Sr.,
6 and Annie Lois Walker Gillis; and

7 WHEREAS, he was the valedictorian of his high school in Soperton and graduated from the
8 University of Georgia in 1937 with a bachelor's degree in forestry; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
10 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state as evidenced by his
11 superlative service as a Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, county
12 commissioner of Treutlen County for 40 years, president of the American Turpentine
13 Farmers Association, president of the Georgia Forestry Association, founder of the Ochoopee
14 River Soil and Water Conservation District, a member of the National Association of
15 Conservation Districts Hall of Fame, chairman of GBA, president of the Georgia Association
16 of County Commissioners, a member of the Soperton Lions Club for more than 75 years, a
17 beloved senator in the Georgia State Senate in 1938 and again from 1945 to 1946, a member
18 of the city council of Soperton, mayor of Soperton without opposition for five years,
19 chairman of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Board, chairman of the
20 Georgia Forestry Commission, president of the Georgia Bankers Association, chairman of
21 the Bank of Soperton Board of Directors, and president of the Bank of Soperton from 1960
22 to 1981; and

23 WHEREAS, he received numerous awards and accolades over the course of his life,
24 including the title of Outstanding Conservationist of Georgia in 1960 and the 2007 Wise Owl

25 Award, and was inducted into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame and the GACDS Hall of
26 Fame; and

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

30 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Jim will long be remembered for his
31 service to his community and state and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
32 knowing him.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 join in honoring the life, memory, and exemplary service of Jim L. Gillis, Jr., and express
35 their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Jim
38 L. Gillis, Jr.