

Senate Resolution 439

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Gooch of the 51st, Cowser of the 46th, Mullis of the 53rd and Hill of the 4th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Thomas Carlton Lewis on his retirement from Georgia State University; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis was born in Union Point, Georgia, and learned from his
4 mother, Eleanor, and father, Carlton Lewis, the importance of public service; and

5 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his long association with government and politics
6 as a college student who interned in Washington, DC for the late Senator Richard Russell;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, following graduation from Georgia Southern University in 1973, he embarked
9 on a professional career that included field work on the campaign of presidential candidate
10 Jimmy Carter; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his career in state government as Executive
12 Director of the Georgia Franchise Practices Commission from 1974 to 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, from 1978 to 1983, he served as Executive Vice President of the Bartow County
14 Chamber of Commerce; and

15 WHEREAS, during his time with the Chamber, he met and began a lifelong friendship with
16 a state legislator from Cartersville, Joe Frank Harris, and his wife, Elizabeth; and

17 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis would join the gubernatorial campaign of Joe Frank
18 Harris serving as one of his most trusted advisors, joining the Governor's Administration in
19 1983 as Executive Assistant, and serving as Chief of Staff from 1986 to 1991; and

20 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis began his career with Georgia State University in 1991
21 representing the University in the local, state, and federal arena advancing to Senior Vice
22 President for External Affairs and Senior Advisor to the President; and

23 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis has walked the halls of this Capitol for over 40 years,
24 the last 28 years advocating for students, faculty, and staff at Georgia State University and
25 the entire higher education community; and

26 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis has served under seven Governors, six Chancellors, and
27 four university presidents and is considered the "Dean" of higher education advocates; and

28 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis is an alum of Leadership Georgia and serves on the
29 Board of Directors of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Century Bank of Georgia, the
30 Rollins Child Development Center, Zell Miller Institute and serves as Chairman of the State
31 Charter School Commission; and

32 WHEREAS, Thomas Carlton Lewis is retiring from Georgia State University to enjoy life
33 in Bartow County with Patty, his beautiful wife of 45 years, his three children, Wes, Ellen,
34 and Shannon, and their families and especially his five grandchildren, Weslie, Leighton,
35 Will, Nate, and Jacks.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that members of this body
37 commend Thomas Carlton Lewis for his extraordinary career in public service and thank him
38 for his many years of service to the University System of Georgia.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Thomas Carlton
41 Lewis.