

Senate Resolution 702

By: Senators Wilkinson of the 50th, Gooch of the 51st, Miller of the 49th, Ginn of the 47th and Beach of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending William "Bill" Hughes Raper; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, William "Bill" Hughes Raper has demonstrated his talents to genealogy
3 research for others throughout the majority of his adult life, acting as leader, teacher, mentor,
4 and friend; and

5 WHEREAS, William "Bill" Hughes Raper was born March 13, 1944 in Cornelia, Georgia,
6 and married Linda Gale Meeks on October 16, 1966; to their union were born two children,
7 Bradley Raymond and Julie Ann, and Bill worked in retail sales for more than 56 years; and

8 WHEREAS, attending church regularly, he serves as the treasurer of adult Sunday school
9 classes and participated in various community activities, including more than 23 years of
10 continuous service as registrar, genealogist, and historian of the Joseph Habersham Chapter,
11 Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and also served as genealogist for one
12 year at the State of Georgia Society; and

13 WHEREAS, his boundless sacrifices of volunteer time over a span of more than 30 years
14 resulted in the Clarkesville-Habersham County Library housing a genealogy collection in the
15 new William H. Raper Heritage Room, which contains a wealth of resources for patrons who
16 are researching their family histories; and

17 WHEREAS, the Heritage Rooms collection includes a thorough assembly of marriage, birth,
18 and death certificates; obituaries; the federal census index; cemetery directories; and property
19 records from Habersham and surrounding counties dating to antebellum times and available
20 through a variety of media ranging from newspapers and maps to Cherokee Indian rolls and
21 family history books; and

22 WHEREAS, his volunteer genealogy service to others is a hallmark of the American
23 character and central to how local research challenges are met; and

24 WHEREAS, he served as research historian for the Habersham County Bicentennial
25 Committee, ensuring that the 200th anniversary of Habersham County celebrates the history
26 and future of the county; and

27 WHEREAS, he sponsored an unprecedented number of applicants for membership in the
28 National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and was the first to be awarded the
29 Addie Bass Service Award from the Tomichichi Chapter of the Daughters of the American
30 Revolution; and

31 WHEREAS, his active membership of more than 23 years in the Joseph Habersham Chapter,
32 Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution and his participation in the SAR Youth
33 Awards programs and JROTC recognition programs are of extraordinary value as a mentor,
34 counselor, leader, and friend to all.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 commend William "Bill" Hughes Raper for his many years of faithful service to the Joseph
37 Habersham Chapter and Habersham County.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to William "Bill"
40 Hughes Raper.