

## Senate Resolution 989

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Jones II of the 22nd, Jones of the 10th, Orrock of the 36th, Parent of the 42nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Senator Steve Henson for his outstanding public service; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, after a lifelong commitment to the betterment of Georgia, Senator Steve Henson  
4 is retiring at the end of session from the Georgia State Senate; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has lived, worked, and served his constituents in the great State  
6 of Georgia for most of his life; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Henson attended DeKalb County public schools and went on to earn  
8 a degree in economics from the University of Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, his early experiences prompted a lifelong interest in education and his tireless  
10 work to expand access to public and higher education for all Georgians; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has been actively engaged in politics since an early age and  
12 served as the president of the Young Democrats of Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has been repeatedly recognized for his altruism and passion for  
14 public service, even since before entering elected office, earning him the title of an  
15 "Outstanding Young Man of America" in 1984 and "Volunteer of the Year" in 1988 by the  
16 DeKalb County Democratic Party, where he is a member of the party's executive committee;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has dedicated his time to numerous community organizations,  
19 including YouthBuild, Tucker Jaycees, Stone Mountain Exchange, DeKalb County Lung  
20 Association, League of Women Voters, PRISM, Georgia Advisory Council for the Mentally  
21 Ill, and the Georgia Epilepsy Board; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1990, the people of DeKalb County first elected Senator Henson to the  
23 Senate, where he led that body on issues of environmental protection, education, ethics, and  
24 Georgia's economy until leaving the Senate in 1998; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Henson served as one of Governor Zell Miller's floor leaders, helping  
26 pass the Governor's key legislative accomplishments, including the HOPE Scholarship,  
27 which has helped millions of Georgians attend college; and

28 WHEREAS, Senator Henson's vigorous devotion to and forward thinking on environmental  
29 protection led Georgia to protect its wetlands and now provides all Georgians with cleaner  
30 air and water; and

31 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has been committed to ensuring that women have the right to  
32 choose health care that is appropriate to them and to live free from any violence; he authored  
33 the Governor's Task Force on Teenage Pregnancy; and

34 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has worked to ensure that all Georgians have the right to live  
35 without fear and with full rights guaranteed by the Constitution; and

36 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has been a staunch defender of access to the ballot box and the  
37 right to vote; and

38 WHEREAS, Senator Henson was re-elected to the Georgia Senate in 2003, where he  
39 continued to honorably advocate for his values and to reach across the aisle in a bipartisan  
40 manner to solve Georgia's most pressing issues; and

41 WHEREAS, Senator Henson introduced and helped pass legislation supporting DeKalb  
42 County community development, economic opportunity, infrastructure improvements, and  
43 a more robust tax base; and

44 WHEREAS, Senator Henson provides invaluable insight and leadership as vice chairman of  
45 the Urban Affairs Committee and as a member of the Ethics, Health and Human Services,  
46 Reapportionment and Redistricting, Regulated Industries and Utilities, Rules, and State  
47 Institutions and Property Committees; and

48 WHEREAS, during his tenure Senator Henson has received the endorsement and support of  
49 many trusted community leaders and organizations, including Congressman Hank Johnson,

50 Congressman John Lewis, the Atlanta Federation of Teachers, Georgia Association of  
51 Educators, Georgia Nurses Association, the Sierra Club, and the Georgia Equality Project;  
52 and

53 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has fought and continues to fight for Georgia's most vulnerable  
54 citizens by opposing budget cuts to Georgia's vital social services and educational programs;  
55 and

56 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has provided the Georgia Senate Democratic Caucus with  
57 invaluable leadership for four decades and has acted as one of Georgia's leading voices on  
58 health care, education, and Georgia's economy; and

59 WHEREAS, Senator Henson has served the Georgia Senate and the people of Georgia with  
60 honor and distinction, and his effective leadership and devotion to public service will be  
61 sorely missed upon his retirement; and

62 WHEREAS, Senator Henson will continue his diligent and effective work advocating for the  
63 rights and dignity of laborers by continuing as regional training director with the Labor's  
64 Local 515.

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
66 recognize and commend Senate Minority Leader Steve Henson for his dedicated public  
67 service to the State of Georgia, congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his retirement,  
68 and extend sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
70 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Senator Steve  
71 Henson.