

Senate Resolution 342

By: Senator Orrock of the 36th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Eldson McGhee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Eldson McGhee has long been recognized for his deep personal commitment
3 to the welfare of the citizens of Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, he has diligently and conscientiously devoted innumerable hours of his time,
5 talents, and energy toward the betterment of his community and state, as evidenced
6 dramatically by his superlative service with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Omega
7 Holiness Church, and other organizations; and

8 WHEREAS, Eldson McGhee valiantly and courageously served as a guardian of this nation's
9 freedom and liberty with the United States Army, serving as a combat infantryman with the
10 173rd Air Borne Brigade during the Vietnam War; and

11 WHEREAS, he was unfortunately wounded in action during his noble service, and upon
12 retirement from the military, he was eventually diagnosed with combat fatigue, now known
13 as PTSD; and

14 WHEREAS, he spent more than 20 years in the penal system after returning home, and it was
15 in this time that he pursued several college degrees and specialist certifications; after his
16 release from incarceration, he helped other prisoners with their legal issues and aided
17 incarcerated veterans in receiving their benefits; and

18 WHEREAS, through his involvement with Vietnam Veterans of America during his
19 incarceration, he established four prison chapters, and following his release, he worked for
20 the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Atlanta VA Medical Center; and

21 WHEREAS, he eventually became the administrative supervisor of the Mental Health Clinic
22 before becoming medically retired in 2002; and

23 WHEREAS, later in 2002, he became president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter
24 No. 883 Inc., and in 2007, he became assistant senior pastor of Omega Holiness Church; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2016, he became president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter No.
26 1118 Inc., and in 2017, he became senior pastor of Omega Holiness Church; and

27 WHEREAS, he has further distinguished himself as an author with his work titled *Short*
28 *Changed: Memoir of an American Combat Veteran*, published in 2011 by Tree Hugger
29 Publishing; and

30 WHEREAS, out of all his superb accomplishments throughout his lifetime, his Purple Heart
31 Medal is the most significant to him; and

32 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high
33 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and he possesses the vast wisdom

34 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
35 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

36 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
37 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 recognize and commend Eldson McGhee for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated
40 service to the State of Georgia and this nation and extend the most sincere best wishes for
41 continued health and happiness.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Eldson McGhee.