

Senate Resolution 423

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Mullis of the 53rd, Dugan of the 30th, Gooch of the 51st and Kennedy of the 18th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of John Ferguson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of John Ferguson on January 23, 2022; and
- 4 WHEREAS, over his four decades of service within the Northeast Georgia Health System
5 (NGHS), he rose from being the first hospital engineer in the state to, at the age of 28,
6 becoming the youngest hospital administrator and CEO, leading the NGHS for an
7 unprecedented 36 years; and
- 8 WHEREAS, within ten years of his promotion to CEO, the organization grew from a humble
9 single acute care hospital with 147 beds and 430 employees to a prestigious health care
10 institution nearly double its original size, including a dedicated ten-bed intensive care unit,
11 ten-bed cardiac care unit, and 20 bed mental health unit; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 1986, he led the hospital through a corporate reorganization designed to
13 allow the institution to adapt quickly to future changes, enabling the organization to expand
14 its services across county lines and improve access to health care throughout Northeast
15 Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, John's leadership was magnetic, his vision for healthcare service in his region
17 was palpable, and his enthusiasm was contagious; and

18 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Lydia, and was blessed with
19 four remarkable children, Debbie, Wyndee, Lynn, and Angus; eight wonderful
20 grandchildren; and one outstanding great-grandchild; and

21 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
22 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
23 family and friends were admired by others; and

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

27 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, John will long be remembered for his love
28 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
29 knowing him.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 join in honoring the life and memory of John Ferguson and express their deepest and most
32 sincere regret at his passing.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of John
35 Ferguson.