

The Senate Committee on Rules offered the following substitute to SR 687:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the University of North Georgia and the University System of Georgia Board of  
2 Regents to name a certain building after former Speaker David Ralston; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the University of North Georgia stands as a pillar of academic excellence,  
5 fostering growth, innovation, and leadership within our community; and

6 WHEREAS, the development of new infrastructure and facilities at the University of North  
7 Georgia represents a commitment to the advancement of education and the betterment of our  
8 society; and

9 WHEREAS, this body shows its support for the University of North Georgia naming its new  
10 building after the late Speaker of the House of Representatives David Ralston in recognition  
11 of his outstanding contributions to the university and this state; and

12 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and service  
13 to the State of Georgia and its citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, born in Ellijay, Speaker Ralston graduated from Gilmer County High School  
15 and continued his education at North Georgia College, now known as the University of North  
16 Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, he attended law school at the University of Georgia before moving back to  
18 north Georgia to open a law practice in Blue Ridge, where he remained a lifelong citizen; and

19 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston served in the Georgia House of Representatives for 20 years  
20 and was the longest serving Speaker of the House, second only to fellow University of North  
21 Georgia alum, Tom Murphy; and

22 WHEREAS, he served as a state Senator from 1992 to 1998 before receiving the Republican  
23 nomination for Georgia Attorney General; and

24 WHEREAS, in these roles, Speaker Ralston displayed visionary leadership and a bipartisan  
25 approach to legislation, enabling him to champion economic development in the North  
26 Georgia region; and

27 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in several enhancements and expansion projects at the  
28 University of North Georgia; and

29 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston is known as the "father" of the Blue Ridge campus and  
30 established a scholarship for nursing and political science students at the University from  
31 Blue Ridge to invest in students looking to pursue opportunities for service to others.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body urges the  
33 University of North Georgia and University System of Georgia Board of Regents to dedicate  
34 and name the new academic building at the University's Blue Ridge campus "David E.

35 Ralston Hall" to honor Speaker Ralston's remarkable achievements and celebrate the  
36 enduring principles he represented.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President of the  
39 University of North Georgia and the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia Board  
40 of Regents.