

Senate Resolution 726

By: Senators Wicks of the 34th, Harbison of the 15th, Anderson of the 43rd, Payne of the 54th, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Edward "Eddie" Crook, Jr.; 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 Edward "Eddie" Crook, Jr.; and
- 4 WHEREAS, affectionately known as Eddie, Edward Crook, Jr., became Columbus,
5 Georgia's, Olympic gold medalist at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, Italy; and
- 6 WHEREAS, competing in middleweight boxing, Eddie was part of a historic and dynamic
7 United States Olympic boxing team that included Muhammad Ali and Wilbur McClure; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
9 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans for 30 years,
10 retiring at the rank of Command Sergeant Major and serving two tours in Vietnam as well
11 as earning the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, and a Bronze Star; and
- 12 WHEREAS, at age 31, Eddie was reportedly the oldest United States Army boxer to ever
13 win an Olympic gold medal, an extraordinary achievement that crowned an already
14 distinguished athletic career; and

15 WHEREAS, following his Olympic triumph, Eddie retired from competitive boxing and
16 continued his service with the United States Army, where his athletic excellence extended
17 to football; and

18 WHEREAS, Eddie supported the boxing program at the Fort Benning Military Base, where
19 he established a training initiative known as the "Smokers"; and

20 WHEREAS, Eddie was an active speaker for the Georgia Olympics, participated in the
21 United States Postal Service speaker program, and contributed to preparations for the 1996
22 Olympic Games in Atlanta; and

23 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Eddie was an active member of Saint John
24 AME Church in Columbus, Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, he was blessed with 10 remarkable children, Sandra, Terri, Alison, Edward,
26 Brenda, Jerry, Melinda, Michael, April, and David, and many wonderful grandchildren and
27 great grandchildren; and

28 WHEREAS, in his honor, his family established the Edward and Fannie Crook Jr.
29 Foundation to provide annual scholarships to graduating seniors at Fannie's former high
30 school, Spencer High; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Eddie will long be remembered for his love
32 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
33 knowing him.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 join in honoring the life and memory of Edward "Eddie" Crook, Jr., and express their deepest
36 and most sincere regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
39 Edward "Eddie" Crook, Jr.