

## House Resolution 1767

By: Representatives Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Holcomb of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Greene of the 154<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Robert McNeill (Neill) Herring for his years of service at the  
2 Georgia General Assembly; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Robert McNeill (Neill) Herring is a native Georgian who hails from Dalton,  
4 attended Emory at Oxford College, and graduated from Georgia State University; and

5 WHEREAS, Neill Herring was invited to be a page at the Georgia General Assembly during  
6 his teenage years, which sparked a lifelong passion for lobbying; and

7 WHEREAS, he has worked as a lobbyist at every session of the Georgia General Assembly  
8 since 1980, working tirelessly with both republicans and democrats for the last 47 years; and

9 WHEREAS, he has been a principal lobbyist for the Sierra Club since 1989 and has worked  
10 to represent a number of other Georgia public interest groups during his career, including  
11 Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and the Georgia Water Coalition; and

12 WHEREAS, his accomplishments have included the defeat of major road projects such as  
13 the Georgia Outer Perimeter and Northern Arc; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1994, Neill Herring worked with legislative leadership Larry Walker and  
15 Tom Murphy to pass HB 1443, which created the Office of State Administrative Hearings;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, he has been a tireless advocate for clean water in Georgia, recognizing it as a  
18 public resource and working successfully to defeat efforts to undermine Georgia's riparian  
19 rights system in 2003 (HB 237) and 2013 (SB 213); and

20 WHEREAS, Neill Herring has pushed for and secured enhanced protections for Jekyll Island  
21 and other significant Georgia natural areas; and

22 WHEREAS, he has defeated a number of landfill and pipeline proposals over the decades  
23 that would have impacted private property rights and worked to protect landowners from  
24 improper use of eminent domain by passing the Landowners Bill of Rights in 2006; and

25 WHEREAS, he worked to secure legislation to improve funding for MARTA in 2015 and  
26 advocated for better transit investments in Georgia; and

27 WHEREAS, he worked relentlessly to pass a referendum to adopt a constitutional  
28 amendment to dedicate Georgia's Hazardous and Solid Waste Trust Funds so that the General  
29 Assembly did not divert those monies into the General Fund, and this effort was successful  
30 in 2020 and 2021; and

31 WHEREAS, one of his biggest legislative disappointments has been the failure to have "Tutti  
32 Frutti" by Little Richard designated as the official rock and roll song of Georgia.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
34 the members of this body recognize and commend Robert McNeill (Neill) Herring for his  
35 efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia as well as  
36 extend the most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
39 Robert McNeill (Neill) Herring.