

Senate Resolution 210

By: Senator Merritt of the 9th

### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Rahim Shah Akhunkhail, nicknamed "Sir," for his dedication  
2 to serving humanity, specifically those who are voiceless in society; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" immigrated from Dir, Pakistan, to the United  
4 States in 1982 and completed his higher education at Southern Illinois University at  
5 Edwardsville, Illinois; he has been a productive and contributing member of his homeland,  
6 the United States, and his motherland, Pakistan; and

7 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" is an activist, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and  
8 community engager, and he has been instrumental in the bilateral and mutually beneficial  
9 relationship between the United States and Pakistan; and

10 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" is actively working and promoting trade  
11 opportunities between the State of Georgia, the United States, and Pakistan; and

12 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" has lived in Edwardsville, Illinois; Washington  
13 D.C.; Jacksonville, Florida; and Atlanta, Georgia, and has always participated in and  
14 promoted interfaith dialogue; and

15 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" founded the Sir Foundation, Muslims of USA  
16 (MOUSA), and the Pakistani Pakhtun Association of North America (PPANA), promoting  
17 Pakhtun culture and benefiting less fortunate around the globe; and

18 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" organized and led efforts to deliver PPE during  
19 extreme shortages to first responders, hospitals, and nursing homes and to provide sustenance  
20 items to deserving individuals during COVID-19 in metro Atlanta, the United States, and  
21 Dir; and

22 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" led an advocacy group, Voices of Muslims, and  
23 encouraged Muslims to exercise their constitutional right to vote, resulting in record turnout  
24 of Muslims voters; and

25 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" supported many candidates at the city, county,  
26 state, and federal levels, believing in justice and equality for all regardless of color, ethnicity,  
27 gender, and social class; and

28 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" continues the mission of his great-grandfather,  
29 Akhun ILYAS (born in 1926 and later named Akhunkhail), spreading knowledge and  
30 encouraging education by building many school rooms in Dir; and

31 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" established multiple scholarships at Southern  
32 Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois, and he offers multiple scholarships every year  
33 to deserving students in Pakistan; and

34 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" is moving from traditional philanthropy to  
35 enabling philanthropy, promoting infrastructure and tourism development in Dir to benefit  
36 current and future generations; and

37 WHEREAS, Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" is a mentor to many youth, encouraging them  
38 to become productive and contributing members of society as well as voices for the  
39 voiceless.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
41 recognize and commend Rahim Shah Akhunkhail "Sir" for his dedication to the betterment  
42 of Georgia, the United States, and Pakistan.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
44 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Rahim Shah  
45 Akhunkhail "Sir."