

Senate Resolution 331

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th and Robertson of the 29th

### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Cliff Rutledge; 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 Cliff Rutledge on February 18, 2024, at the age of 92; and
- 4 WHEREAS, a pioneering figure in radio broadcasting, he began his career in the 1950s with  
5 a Sunday morning Gospel show on WCLS before joining WOKS in 1964, where he became  
6 the voice of historic high school and college sporting events in the Columbus area; and
- 7 WHEREAS, throughout his seven-decade broadcasting career, he called some of the most  
8 memorable games in local history, including Carver High School's 1971 state basketball  
9 championship, Kendrick's 1991 state football championship, Shaw's 2000 state football  
10 championship, and Carver's 2007 state football championship; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he further served as the play-by-play announcer for two historic college football  
12 rivalry games played annually in Columbus, the Fountain City Classic and the Tuskegee  
13 Morehouse Classic; and

14 WHEREAS, beyond his impact in broadcasting, he was a dedicated educator who devoted  
15 40 years of service to Phenix City Schools, serving as principal of Susie E. Allen Elementary  
16 School and as director of the city's Head Start and adult education programs; and

17 WHEREAS, in honor of his invaluable contributions to his community, he earned the title  
18 of "Community Legend" from the Samarc Foundation in 2012 and was inducted into the  
19 Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 2014; and

20 WHEREAS, his influence extended beyond the airwaves as he brought people together  
21 through his warm, personal broadcasting style, his dedication to his faith, and his lifelong  
22 commitment to uplifting those around him; and

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

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

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

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