

Senate Resolution 406

By: Senators Summers of the 13th, Kennedy of the 18th, Watson of the 11th, Goodman of the 8th, Gooch of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Charles M. "Buddy" Leger; 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 Charles M. "Buddy" Leger on February 28, 2025; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Charles M. "Buddy" Leger was born on June 9, 1931, in Knox County,
5 Kentucky, a beloved son of Noah Delbert and Uhla McKeehan Leger; and
- 6 WHEREAS, during his extraordinary career, he dedicated more than 75 years to the
7 agriculture industry, leaving a legacy of impact on the watermelon and pecan industries in
8 Georgia and beyond; and
- 9 WHEREAS, prior to establishing Leger & Son Inc., which continues to actively grow,
10 harvest, and market both watermelons and pecans, he served with the Federal State
11 Inspection Service, where he graded fruits and vegetables, and as manager of the Cordele
12 Farmers Market with the Georgia Department of Agriculture; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Charles M. "Buddy" Leger held vital roles in the agriculture industry, such as
14 chairman of the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Pecans, president of the

15 Georgia Pecan Growers Association, president of the Georgia Watermelon Association, and
16 the first president of the National Watermelon Research and Promotion Board; and

17 WHEREAS, his expertise was recognized at the highest levels, as he was appointed to serve
18 on the Transition Team for Agriculture from the Reagan administration to the Bush
19 administration as well as on many state and national councils; and

20 WHEREAS, he was the recipient of the National Watermelon Association Outstanding
21 Service Award in 1979, 1986, and 1990 as well as the University of Georgia College of
22 Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Medallion of Honor Award in 2006, earning
23 induction into the University of Georgia College of Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2012; and

24 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife of 57 years, Marjorie, and the
25 two were blessed with four remarkable children, Susan, Sherrie, Maria, and James; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Charles M. "Buddy" Leger will long be
27 remembered for his love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who
28 had the great 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 Charles M. "Buddy" Leger and express their deepest
31 and most 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
34 Charles M. "Buddy" Leger.