

Senate Resolution 497

By: Senators Brass of the 6th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th, Anavitarte of the 31st and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Michael Ernest Sumner; 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 Michael Ernest Sumner on February 22, 2025; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Michael Ernest Sumner was born on February 12, 1958, in Nashville,
5 Tennessee, a beloved son of Ernest L. Sumner and Marjorie Meadows Sumner; and
- 6 WHEREAS, his family moved to Decatur, Georgia, in 1959, and he graduated from Lakeside
7 High School in 1976, the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia in
8 1980, and the University of Georgia Lumpkin School of Law in 1984; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Michael Ernest Sumner began his distinguished legal career at Glover & Davis
10 before working with Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs in Atlanta and later establishing his
11 own law practice in Newnan in 1996, which continues today as Sumner Meeker LLC; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he dedicated 16 years of service to the Coweta County Board of Education,
13 including five years as board chair, where he played a pivotal role in founding the Nixon

14 Centre for Performing and Visual Arts, developing Georgia's first technical charter high
15 school, and implementing Coweta County's senior tax exemption; and

16 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife of 39 years, Leah, and together
17 they were blessed with three remarkable sons, Ernest, Stuart, and Thomas, and a cherished
18 granddaughter, Mary; and

19 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Michael Ernest Sumner devoted over five
20 decades of his life to Central Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, participated in the
21 chancel choir and a Gospel quartet, attended the weekly Men's Bible Study, and taught the
22 Connections Sunday School Class alongside Leah; and

23 WHEREAS, he was an enthusiastic sports fan who passionately supported Georgia football,
24 Virginia basketball, and the Atlanta Braves, with an encyclopedic knowledge of team history,
25 statistics, and personalities; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Michael Ernest Sumner 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 Michael Ernest Sumner 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 Michael Ernest Sumner.