

Senate Resolution 531

By: Senators Hickman of the 4th, Burns of the 23rd, Watson of the 1st, Tillery of the 19th and Mallow of the 2nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Freedom, the live bald eagle mascot of Georgia Southern
2 University; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Freedom, a male Southern bald eagle, became an integral part of Georgia
4 Southern University in 2004 after being rescued from a nest in Maitland, Florida, where he
5 sustained a permanent beak injury that prevented his release into the wild; and

6 WHEREAS, with the permission of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia
7 Southern University provided Freedom with a home at the Center for Wildlife Education and
8 the Lamar Q. Ball Jr. Raptor Center, where he served as a living symbol of the university's
9 spirit and commitment to wildlife conservation; and

10 WHEREAS, Freedom inspired thousands annually through his majestic flights at Georgia
11 Southern sporting events, including the cherished tradition of soaring over Allen E. Paulson
12 Stadium before home football games as well as appearances at the Savannah St. Patrick's
13 Day Parade, commencement ceremonies, and various educational and community events
14 across the State of Georgia and the nation; and

15 WHEREAS, through his role as an ambassador for wildlife education, Freedom contributed
16 significantly to the university's mission by engaging individuals of all ages in learning about
17 wildlife care, conservation, and the importance of preserving our natural heritage; and

18 WHEREAS, Freedom's presence embodied the strength, resilience, and unity of Eagle
19 Nation, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of students, alumni, faculty, and the broader
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, on March 29, 2025, Freedom passed away, leaving behind a legacy of
22 inspiration, education, and pride that will be remembered and cherished for generations to
23 come.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 recognize and honor the life and contributions of Freedom, the esteemed live bald eagle
26 mascot of Georgia Southern University, and express their deepest condolences upon his
27 passing.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Georgia Southern
30 University.