

Senate Resolution 706

By: Senators Bearden of the 30th, Brass of the 6th and Anavitarte of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Bill Hembree; 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 Bill Hembree on January 15, 2026; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Bill Hembree was born on March 8, 1966, in Villa Rica, Georgia, a beloved son
5 of Herman Aubrey Hembree and Monta Raye Buchanan Hembree; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Beth, and was blessed with three
7 remarkable children, Will, Thomas, and Miles; and
- 8 WHEREAS, a 1984 graduate of Douglas County High School, Bill served as State DECA
9 President during his senior year and went on to serve as National DECA President,
10 demonstrating exceptional leadership at an early age; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he was a lifelong learner with a global perspective, studying at the University
12 of Oslo in Norway, participating in Semester at Sea through the University of Pittsburgh, and
13 serving as a Rotary Scholar in Scotland; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2000, Bill founded Hembree Insurance Agency and grew it into a successful
15 three-office business over two decades, built on principles of integrity, service, and
16 community trust; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Bill Hembree faithfully served with the Georgia House of
18 Representatives from 1992-2012, holding distinguished roles including Chairman of Higher
19 Education and Chairman of the Rules Committee, where he worked tirelessly to improve
20 Georgia's higher education system and honorably served the citizens of Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, in 2024, Bill and his wife Beth established the Bill Hembree Scholarship with
22 the National DECA Program to support and encourage future student leaders, continuing his
23 lifelong dedication to education and leadership development; and

24 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
25 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
26 family and friends were admired by others; and

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

30 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Bill Hembree will long be remembered for
31 his visionary leadership, commitment to public service, love of learning, and enduring impact
32 on the State of Georgia and the many lives he touched.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 join in honoring the life and memory of Bill Hembree and express their deepest and most
35 sincere regret at his passing.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Bill
38 Hembree.