

Senate Resolution 766

By: Senators Hodges of the 3rd, Walker III of the 20th, Harrell of the 40th, Hickman of the 4th, Summers of the 13th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the St. Marys Submarine Museum upon its 30th anniversary; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the St. Marys Submarine Museum was a dream that became a reality on March
4 30, 1996, due to the heroic efforts of many people led by the late Georgia State Senator
5 Sheila McNeill, who was the founding President of the Museum, and then St. Marys Mayor
6 Jerry Brandon; and

7 WHEREAS, the late Rear Admiral Eugene Fluckey, Commanding Officer of the WWII
8 Submarine USS BARB, and one of seven submariners to receive the Medal of Honor in
9 WWII, was the commissioning speaker; and

10 WHEREAS, for the past 30 years the partnership between the St. Marys Submarine Museum
11 and the City of St. Marys has been a great example of a public-private partnership that not
12 only works, but works well; and

13 WHEREAS, donated to the City in 1936 by the Lucas family of Georgia, the museum has
14 remained located in a historic building on the waterfront in downtown St. Marys, that used
15 to serve as both the St. Marys movie theater and then the city's youth center, and has

16 continued that service to the community at large, with this museum paying tribute to the
17 silent service of the United States Navy; and

18 WHEREAS, the men and women who have been stationed over the years at Naval
19 Submarine Base Kings Bay have benefited from the history afforded at this incredible facility
20 and have been able to hold reenlistments, officer promotions, chief promotions, and change
21 of command receptions as well as so many other events at the museum; and

22 WHEREAS, for the past decade the midshipmen of both the Naval Academy in Annapolis
23 and ROTC Universities across the country have been provided history lectures and tours of
24 this great museum, assisting them in making informed career decisions about their path for
25 service following graduation each year; and

26 WHEREAS, the museum has taken the lead role in the annual Kings Bay Submarine
27 Veterans of WWII Memorial Week which has been held annually for 37 years, honoring the
28 65 submarines our nation has lost and thousands of submariners who were lost in the line of
29 duty during service to our nation in its 126 year history as a submarine force, bringing
30 submariners from all across the county together with our allies from the United Kingdom;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the late Retired Navy Master Chief John Crouse was instrumental in bringing
33 the museum to life and served as the first manager from 1995, before the doors were opened
34 to the public, until his untimely passing in September 2010; and

35 WHEREAS, Retired Navy Senior Chief Keith Post, who served on the museum's Board of
36 Directors for 5 years, picked up the reins in 2010 and has led the Museum since then serving
37 as Executive Director, building on the legacy started by John Crouse and bringing the

38 Museum to new levels of service to the community, becoming part of the Georgia WWII
39 Heritage Trail in 2020, and aggressively expanding Submarine Crew Reunions held in the
40 Camden County area bringing not only visitors but also economic activity to the area.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize the St. Marys Submarine Museum on the occasion of its 30th anniversary and
43 encourage all Georgians to visit this outstanding museum to learn about our nation's
44 incredible submarine history.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the St. Marys
47 Submarine Museum, the public, and the press.