

## Senate Resolution 1036

By: Senators Davenport of the 17th, James of the 28th, Jones of the 10th and Anderson of the 43rd

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Deacon Willie David “Bill” Finch; 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 Deacon Willie David “Bill” Finch on March 15, 2026; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Deacon Willie David “Bill” Finch was born on August 25, 1935, in Barnett,  
5 Warren County, Georgia, a beloved son of Tommie Finch, Sr., and Ida Mae Finch; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Annie Bell Pittman-Finch, and  
7 was blessed with seven remarkable children, 13 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren;  
8 and
- 9 WHEREAS, the couple moved the Forest Park, Georgia, in 1958 and remain among the  
10 longest residents in Forest Park; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Bill was known as a trailblazer not only in Forest Park but also in Clayton  
12 County and the State of Georgia; and

13 WHEREAS, he was the first of two African American men to own a Gulf Oil Gas Station  
14 in the State of Georgia; played an integral role in his 11-year-old son, Rodney, becoming the  
15 first Black athlete to integrate Forest Park athletics in football and baseball; and was the first  
16 Black man to coach Little League Baseball; and

17 WHEREAS, the doors Bill opened for his community not only changed the lives of countless  
18 children in the State of Georgia, but also allowed his son, Rodney, to be drafted by the  
19 Atlanta Braves; and

20 WHEREAS, although he never ran for political office, he was known as one of the best  
21 politicians in Clayton County, offering his support and friendship to many key political  
22 figures in the county; and

23 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Bill will long be remembered for his love  
24 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of  
25 knowing him.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 join in honoring the life and memory of Deacon Willie David “Bill” Finch and express their  
28 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of  
31 Deacon Willie David “Bill” Finch.