

Senate Resolution 1131

By: Senators Miller of the 49th, Cowser of the 46th, Henson of the 41st, Tate of the 38th, Wilkinson of the 50th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and remembering the life of the Honorable Zell Bryan Miller, former Lieutenant
2 Governor, Governor, and United States Senator of this great state; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Honorable Zell Bryan Miller was born on February 24, 1932, in Young
4 Harris, Georgia, to Stephen Grady Miller and Birdie Miller, one of Georgia's most
5 distinguished native sons; and

6 WHEREAS, he attended Young Harris College and later earned bachelor's and master's
7 degrees in history from the University of Georgia and entered the teaching profession as a
8 history and political science professor at Young Harris College; and

9 WHEREAS, he served his country with honor and distinction in the United States Marine
10 Corps from 1953 to 1956, leaving the Corps as a Sergeant and Rifle Expert; and

11 WHEREAS, during a forty-year career in public service, he served the State of Georgia as
12 a Mayor, State Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and United States Senator; and

13 WHEREAS, he won the first of four consecutive terms as Lieutenant Governor of Georgia
14 from 1975 to 1991, becoming the longest-serving Lieutenant Governor in Georgia history;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, he was elected Governor in 1990 and served as Georgia's 79th Governor from
17 1991-1999; and

18 WHEREAS, he served as United States Senator from Georgia from 2000 to 2004; and

19 WHEREAS, he had a passion for education and contributed greatly to the cause of education
20 in Georgia in many ways, most notably through the creation of the highly successful HOPE
21 Scholarship program for students at Georgia's colleges, universities, and technical institutes

22 and the nation's first state-wide voluntary pre-kindergarten for all four-year-olds whose
23 parents wanted to enroll them; and

24 WHEREAS, upon retiring from the United States Senate in 2004, he returned to the
25 classroom as a professor at the University of Georgia, Emory University, and Young Harris
26 College; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Zell B. Miller Learning Center at the University of Georgia was
28 dedicated in his honor; in 2014, the Zell and Shirley Miller Library at Young Harris College
29 was dedicated in the couple's honor; and in 2016, the Miller Institute was created to preserve,
30 promote, and continue the Miller legacy; and

31 WHEREAS, on the morning of March 23, 2018, he died peacefully at his home in Young
32 Harris surrounded by his beloved wife Shirley and his family; and

33 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of this monumental statesman and
34 distinguished Georgian.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 join together to express their deepest regret at the passing of former Lieutenant Governor,
37 Governor, and United States Senator Zell Bryan Miller and extend their most sincere
38 condolences to his family.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of the
41 Honorable Zell Bryan Miller.