

Senate Resolution 147

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Hill of the 4th, Butler of the 55th, Jones of the 10th, Henson of the 41st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Senator Steve Thompson on his outstanding public service;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, democratic Senator Steve Thompson served the 33rd Senate district of Georgia
4 from 1990-2014 and represented a portion of Cobb County; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Thompson was the longest serving member of the Senate, held the
6 position of Dean of the Senate, and served on the Appropriations, Finance, Banking and
7 Financial Institutions, and Transportation committees; and

8 WHEREAS, during his distinguished years in the Senate, he twice chaired the Senate
9 Transportation Committee, and on a national level, he served as Vice President of the
10 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and Chairman of NCSL's Transportation
11 Committee; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1998, he was appointed a Senior Floor Leader by Governor Roy E. Barnes,
13 and during the ensuing four years, he never lost a bill that he presented, including passage
14 of extensive education reform and the creation of the Georgia Regional Transportation
15 Authority; most notably, he sponsored and worked for passage of Georgia's property tax cut
16 of an estimated \$400 million; and

17 WHEREAS, at the time of his election in 1980, he held the distinction of being the youngest
18 member of the General Assembly to serve in the Georgia House of Representatives; during
19 his tenure as a state Representative, he was privileged to serve on the three most powerful
20 committees in the House, Appropriations, Rules, and Ways and Means; and

21 WHEREAS, he was appointed Chairman of Governor Joe Frank Harris's Child Protection
22 Committee in 1985, and under his leadership, the most far reaching children's legislation to
23 date was introduced and passed on behalf of Governor Harris; as a result, the Georgia

24 Missing Children's Center was created with the help of John Walsh, who also helped found
25 the National Center for Missing Children; and

26 WHEREAS, he has been named one of Georgia's Most Influential People several times and
27 has been honored as Legislator of the Year by more than 24 state-wide organizations; and

28 WHEREAS, Senator Thompson grew up in South Cobb County, attended Pebblebrook High
29 and South Cobb High in the late 1960s, graduated from Pebblebrook High, and earned an
30 Associate of Science degree from Kennesaw State University (KSU), later serving on the
31 KSU Board of Trustees; and in 1984, Senator Thompson graduated from the Georgia School
32 of Banking through the University of Georgia; and

33 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
34 States Navy and was a crew chief on the flight deck of the USS Forrestal; following his Navy
35 service, he worked a short time alongside his brother, Cobb Commissioner Woody
36 Thompson, in the family business after which he was appointed to serve as Assistant to the
37 Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1977, Senator Thompson was instrumental in creating and operating the first
39 professional marketing effort of the Georgia State Bank, where he became a Vice President
40 and served on the Board of the New Georgia State Bank, which grew to a worth of \$4 billion
41 and, after 25 years of growth, was merged with RBC Bank; and

42 WHEREAS, he also owned and operated the Affiliates Group in Marietta, Georgia, and was
43 a minority partner in American Transit Display Systems until the sale of those entities; and

44 WHEREAS, he has long been active in civic and community affairs, has been honored with
45 many entrepreneurial awards for outstanding service, and has served as Vice Chairman of
46 one of the nation's largest Chambers of Commerce; and

47 WHEREAS, Senator Thompson is a member of the Powder Springs Baptist Church, resides
48 in Marietta, Georgia, with his wife Karen, and is the father of one daughter, Amy Hill, and
49 the exuberant grandfather of four boys and one girl.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
51 recognize and commend Senator Steve Thompson on his outstanding public service and for
52 his contributions to the State of Georgia.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
54 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Senator Steve
55 Thompson.