

Senate Resolution 207

By: Senators Hodges of the 3rd, Hatchett of the 50th, Kennedy of the 18th, Hickman of the 4th, Still of the 48th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the 30 Fallen Patriots of Thiokol: Celia Alberta, Ethel Banks,
2 Annie C. Booth, Gloria W. Booth, Bertha R. Brunswick, Bettie R. Burch, Charles Burch,
3 James L. Chapman, Yvonne M. Connelly, Jack Cox, Mae H. Davis, Mildred Davis,
4 Howard Ellis Sr., Willie M. Fuller, Pearlie M. Hutchinson, Annie M. James, Mack Kennedy,
5 Essie D. King, Gracie M. Life, Bertha M. Hill, Charles T. Monak, James Parland,
6 Sandra R. Rauls, Cyrus D. Roberson, Betty J. Roberts, Lillie B. Spells, Cheryl M. Sullivan,
7 Mae A. Taylor, Joseph E. Wainright, and Annie L. Williams; and for other purposes.

8 WHEREAS, on February 3, 2023, the State of Georgia honors the 30 Fallen Patriots of
9 Thiokol as distinguished citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, the Woodbine Thiokol Chemical Plant employees were members of the United
11 Chemical Workers Union 832 and the pioneers of men and women of all ethnicities working
12 together to earn equally an hourly wage, becoming the blueprint for the modern American
13 workplace; and

14 WHEREAS, the 600 government-contracted employees of the Woodbine Thiokol Chemical
15 Plant manufactured vital munitions for the United States Military during the Vietnam War
16 in Woodbine, Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, on February 3, 1971, at 10:53 AM during Tripflare manufacturing operations
18 in Building M-132, an explosion occurred at the Woodbine Thiokol Chemical Plant; and

19 WHEREAS, on February 3, 1971, the United States Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, along
20 with civilian helicopter pilots, police officers, firemen, nurses, and doctors from 16 cities
21 and 14 hospitals, provided emergency rescue and medical care and fought to save lives; and

22 WHEREAS, the Thiokol explosion is the worst disaster in the history of Southeastern
23 Georgia and is now ranked as the tenth out of 100 worst industrial accidents in United States
24 history in 100 years, which was triumphed over by the human spirit; and

25 WHEREAS, the 30 plant workers' lives were cut short in 1971 and 1973, but the tragic loss
26 of these Georgians changed the quality of life for millions of Americans, resulting in
27 improvements in transportation, emergency medical services, mass tort litigation, and plant
28 safety.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 join in memorializing the 30 patriots who perished while upholding this nation's sacred
31 obligation to provide supplies to our military and commending the heroes of the 1971
32 Thiokol Plant Explosion involved in rescue and recovery.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
35 press.