

Senate Resolution 776

By: Senator Bearden of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of James "Richard" Smith; 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 James "Richard" Smith on December 26, 2023; and
- 4 WHEREAS, James "Richard" Smith was born on February 14, 1940, in Villa Rica, Georgia,
5 a beloved son of Carl Reese Smith and Reba Mae Walker Smith; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
7 States Army Reserves, demonstrating his commitment to his country; and
- 8 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Richard was an active member of the First
9 Baptist Church of Villa Rica, where he served on various committees; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Richard co-founded Don-Rich Ford in Villa Rica with his brother, Donald
11 Smith, where he dedicated over 50 years of service to the automotive industry and
12 contributed significantly to the economic development of Villa Rica; and

13 WHEREAS, he actively contributed to his community through his involvement in the Villa
14 Rica Schools, the Villa Rica Lion's Club, the Bank of Villa Rica, and the Industrial
15 Development Authority, where he played a pivotal role in bringing the first business to the
16 Industrial Park; and

17 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Nancy, and was blessed with
18 three remarkable children, Bart, Triska, and Blake, as well as five wonderful grandchildren,
19 Bryson, Kaili, Brantley, Reagan, and Clark; and

20 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
21 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
22 family and friends were admired by others; and

23 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Richard will long be remembered for his
24 love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
25 fortune of 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 James "Richard" Smith and express their deepest and
28 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 James "Richard" Smith.