

## Senate Resolution 505

By: Senators Harper of the 7th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Mullis of the 53rd, Dugan of the 30th and Strickland of the 17th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring and remembering the life of John Strickland Gibson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, John Strickland Gibson, a celebrated attorney and United States Congressman,  
3 was one of the most distinguished community servants in the history of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he was born in Charlton County on January 3, 1893, to William Owen Gibson  
5 and Julia Ann Vickery Gibson, and he was married to Bessie Thomas in April, 1917; and
- 6 WHEREAS, after moving to Douglas and graduating from Georgia Normal Business  
7 College, he began his legal career at the office of George Mingledorff while he finished a  
8 correspondence course from LaSalle Extension University and prepared for the bar exam;  
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, he was an aggressive courtroom lawyer who specialized in cross-examination  
11 and was known for his innate ability to sense the mood of the jury and for his colorful and  
12 frequently caustic methods of argument; and
- 13 WHEREAS, he became one of Georgia's most feared and admired attorneys, and his  
14 excellence as a trial lawyer led to his election in 1934 as solicitor general, a position  
15 equivalent to today's district attorney; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Gibson's popularity continued to grow, and he was elected as a Democrat to the  
17 United States Congress after the congressman from Georgia's Eighth District, W. Ben Gibbs,  
18 passed away in 1940; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Congressman Gibson served the public tirelessly through the difficult years of  
20 World War II, and he is credited with playing a decisive role in the passing of the  
21 Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G.I. Bill; and

22 WHEREAS, during the week of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, a House and Senate  
23 conference committee was deadlocked on the bill which would provide housing, education,  
24 and job benefits to returning veterans; and

25 WHEREAS, Congressman Gibson received word that the bill was in jeopardy while he was  
26 at home in Douglas, Georgia, recovering from an illness, and in a spectacular overnight  
27 journey, he rushed to Washington to remind his peers that American soldiers needed their  
28 full support.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
30 join in remembering the life of John Strickland Gibson and honoring his tireless dedication  
31 to serving his community, state, and country.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
33 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia  
34 Department of the American Legion.