

Senate Resolution 687

By: Senator Gooch of the 51st

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the University of North Georgia and the University System of Georgia Board of
2 Regents to name a certain building after former Speaker David Ralston; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the University of North Georgia stands as a pillar of academic excellence,
5 fostering growth, innovation, and leadership within our community; and

6 WHEREAS, the development of new infrastructure and facilities at the University of North
7 Georgia represents a commitment to the advancement of education and the betterment of our
8 society; and

9 WHEREAS, this body shows its support for the University of North Georgia naming its new
10 building after the late Speaker of the House of Representatives David Ralston in recognition
11 of his outstanding contributions to the university and this state; and

12 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and service
13 to the State of Georgia and its citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, born in Ellijay, Speaker Ralston graduated from Gilmer County High School
15 and continued his education at North Georgia College, now known as the University of North
16 Georgia; and

17 WHEREAS, he attended law school at the University of Georgia before moving back to
18 north Georgia to open a law practice in Blue Ridge, where he remained a lifelong citizen; and

19 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston served in the Georgia House of Representatives for 20 years
20 and was the longest serving Speaker of the House, second only to fellow University of North
21 Georgia alum, Tom Murphy; and

22 WHEREAS, he served as a state Senator from 1992 to 1998 before receiving the Republican
23 nomination for Georgia Attorney General; and

24 WHEREAS, in these roles, Speaker Ralston displayed visionary leadership and a bipartisan
25 approach to legislation, enabling him to champion economic development in the North
26 Georgia region; and

27 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in several enhancements and expansion projects at the
28 University of North Georgia; and

29 WHEREAS, Speaker Ralston is known as the "father" of the Blue Ridge campus and
30 established a scholarship for nursing and political science students at the University from
31 Blue Ridge to invest in students looking to pursue opportunities for service to others.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body urges the
33 University of North Georgia and University System of Georgia Board of Regents to dedicate
34 and name the new academic building at the University's Blue Ridge campus "David E.

35 Ralston Hall" to honor Speaker Ralston's remarkable achievements and celebrate the
36 enduring principles he represented.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the President of the
39 University of North Georgia and the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia Board
40 of Regents.