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Georgia Senate Bios in Brief: Senator Tim Golden

I'm having the time of my life," Senator Tim Golden said as he expressed his feelings for his first term in the Georgia Senate.

Since his freshman year in high school, Senator Golden has always dreamed of being a member of the General Assembly. After eight years in the Georgia House of Representatives, Senator Golden stepped into the Senate arena with an optimistic attitude and a greater devotion to serve the citizens of Georgia.

Senator Tim Golden, distinguished alumni of Valdosta State University, is partly responsible for passed legislation that upgraded the school's status from a college to a university. Out of great respect for the university, he diligently lobbied for additional funds for their advancement.

"Valdosta State University is a tremendous asset to Southwest Georgia," Senator Golden said. "It is an essential catalyst for education in the area."

Those funds erupted into several major developments on the university's campus, including a new Science and Biology building and additional job openings, which contributed to the university's growth as the largest employer for the city of Valdosta. A salary hike for university employees was also a result of Senator Golden's handwork for the school.

Technical education is another favorable subject on Senator Golden's priority list. He understands and respects the need for this type of education as it relates to the future.

"Being in the printing business, I understand the need for technical education. I am proud of Valdosta Tech for all they do," Senator Golden said. "It is a priority. The future screams for a highly skilled workforce."

Senator Golden has also been successful in cutting unemployment taxes in Georgia. He worked on this issue during his days in the House, and his plight continues in the Senate. He is also the author of SB 222, which will lessen unemployment taxes.

"I appreciate Governor Barnes for allowing me to handle this legislation on the Senate Floor," Senator Golden said. "This bill will create a substantial cash infusion for our state's economy. SB 222 is good for both the employer and the employee."

Before entering state government, Senator Golden became seasoned by working with several United States legislators. He served as intern for former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn during his campaign in 1971. He also served on the staff of U.S. Representative Charles Hatcher, serving as an aide for ten years. It was also his experience with Hatcher that fostered his desire to become a legislator.

“Charles inspired me to run for both House and Senate seats,” Senator Golden said. “It was my vision of his hard work, dedication and success in the U.S. government that enabled me to see my own potential as a successful legislator.”

Unlike Representative Hatcher, Senator Golden chooses to preside in state government. He says he prefers the smaller 56-member body and the convenience of being able to provide personal attention to his constituents.

“This session has been a fun learning experience for me,” Senator Golden said. “I am still working out the traditional kinks as well as adjusting to Georgia’s new shift in leadership. However, I am pleased with the leadership, and I am eager to continue my work for the people of Georgia.”

“When the session is over, we will all look back and realize that we, as a team, have done quite a bit more than we thought. I’m sure I can speak for my colleagues when I say the new laws of Georgia will be a crucial asset as Georgia and its citizens approach the new millennium.”

Senator Golden represents the 8th district, which includes Brooks and Lowndes Counties and a portion of Thomas County.

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