

Senate Resolution 1012

By: Senators Thomas of the 10th, Smith of the 25th and Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Mrs. Mary Otealia Allen Edwards and expressing regret at her passing;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mary Otealia Allen Edwards was a distinguished resident of Milledgeville,
4 Georgia, who was held in the highest esteem by the entire community; and

5 WHEREAS, she was born on July 3, 1925, in Washington, D.C., into the loving family of
6 the late Mr. Louie Allen Sr. and the late Mrs. Evangeline Butts Allen; and

7 WHEREAS, her parents, pioneer citizens of Baldwin County, relocated the family to
8 Milledgeville when she was nine years old and the remainder of her life was spent as an
9 active citizen of that community; and

10 WHEREAS, raised with her two brothers and three sisters, she attended public schools in
11 Baldwin County, demonstrating an unusual dedication and high aptitude for learning; and

12 WHEREAS, she attended Tennessee State University and Fort Valley State University,
13 earned a master's degree from Syracuse University, and completed further graduate work at
14 the University of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, as a teacher, she was an early leader in the field of special education in Baldwin
16 County, a field to which she gave her full measure of devotion for more than 30 years; and

17 WHEREAS, her pioneering work with emotionally disturbed children set a standard for
18 professional achievement; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1946, Mary Otealia Allen and Richard Edwards Sr. were united in holy
20 matrimony and their dynamic partnership produced five beloved children and helped to

1 change the social landscape of the City of Milledgeville as they became one of the first black
2 families to establish ground-breaking businesses within the community; and

3 WHEREAS, having been reared in a Christian home, Mary Otealia confessed Jesus Christ
4 at an early age and was a faithful, devoted, and ardent member of the New Vision Church
5 of God in Christ; and

6 WHEREAS, her devotion to the duties of citizenship and her commitment to Christian
7 service made her community and this state a better place in which to live; and

8 WHEREAS, the untimely passing of this generous, unselfish, and beloved mother, sister,
9 grandmother, teacher, and friend leaves a void which can only be filled with the innumerable
10 memories of her loving kindness.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
12 honor the life of Mrs. Mary Otealia Allen Edwards, express their gratitude for her
13 contributions in the field of education, and extend their condolences to her family.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
15 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mary Otealia Allen
16 Edwards.