

Senate Resolution 1019

By: Senator Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Honorable State Senator Donzella Johnson James upon
2 her retirement from the State of Georgia General Assembly; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 1994, Senator Donzella James was elected to the State Senate from Atlanta's
4 35th District finishing the unexpired term of former Senator Arthur Langford and she has
5 served her constituency with distinction for four consecutive terms; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator James, a Democrat, currently chairs the Interstate Cooperation
7 Committee, vice chairs the State and Local Governmental Operations and Veterans and
8 Consumer Affairs Committees, and serves as secretary of the Agriculture Committee; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator James authored the legislation creating the Senate Eviction Law Study
10 Committee in 1995. She chaired the 1996 Senate Recycling and Economic Development
11 Study Committee and served on the Senate Young Drivers Study Committee and the 1997
12 Senate Study Committee on Solid Waste Reduction. She has hosted the annual Safe Drivers'
13 Awareness Day and South Fulton Day at the Capitol since 1995 and sponsored numerous
14 resolutions recognizing community leaders, state legislators, educators, and the achievements
15 of many of the constituency she dutifully represents; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator James instituted an "open-door" policy and quarterly town hall
17 meetings to maintain close contact with the community. Active in political and community
18 affairs, Senator James has been a delegate to three national Democratic conventions; and

19 WHEREAS, her legislative priorities have included increases in teacher salaries and lower
20 student-teacher ratios, the legalization of women breast feeding in public, exemption of cities
21 and counties from unfunded state mandates, the 2000 Safety Regulation for Public
22 Swimming Pools, the Teenage Driving Responsibility Act, and the Zero Tolerance for
23 Ownership or Possession of Weapons. She authored the Child Sexual Commerce Prevention

1 Act of 2001, which changes existing legal provisions relating to offenses of pimping and
2 pandering persons under the age of 18 making it a felony; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator James sponsored legislation renaming state highways and bridges to
4 honor notable citizens including the late Senator Arthur Langford, Jr., NAACP Director;
5 Jondelle Johnson, Georgia Power Executive; James Wendell George; and former State
6 Senator Leroy Johnson. Senator James was instrumental in the effort to place the portrait of
7 Senator Johnson in the Capitol, which is now prominently displayed outside the Senate
8 Chambers; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator James has received numerous honors include the 1995-96 Freshman
10 Legislator of the Year Award, 1996 and 1997 Grassroots Recycling Network's Legislator of
11 the Year, Recipient of the 2001 *Washington Times* Foundation Award, the National Service
12 Award, Governor's Office of Highway Safety Award, 2001 International Ambassador for
13 Peace, Mount Moriah Grand Masonic Lodge's 2001 Outstanding Public Service Award,
14 MADD's 2001 Distinguished Legislator Award, and the Georgia State Civil Rights Council's
15 William Oliver-J.R. Jones Award. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities
16 degree from Macon's Emmanuel Bible College; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator James was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Atlanta/Fulton
18 Delegation, the Policy Member Democratic Caucus, and the National Secretary, National
19 Black Caucus of State Legislators and is a GABEO member. She was selected to be a 1995
20 Fleming Fellow with CPA and is a 2001-02 Eleanor Roosevelt Global Leadership Fellow;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the mayors and city councils of Atlanta's neighboring cities, the Islamic
23 Brotherhood of Atlanta, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, the National
24 Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, the Georgia Highway Safety Management
25 System, and numerous area churches have all acknowledged her work; and

26 WHEREAS, an Atlanta native, Senator James and her husband, Elmo James, are the parents
27 of two sons, Brian and Kerry (deceased), and, have one granddaughter, Kerri.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 commend State Senator Donzella Johnson James for her many years of dedicated service as
30 a leader in the State of Georgia's General Assembly and extend their sincere appreciation for

1 her extraordinary contributions to the constituency she faithfully represented and to the
2 citizenry of this great state.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
4 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to State Senator Donzella Johnson James.