

Senate Resolution 30EX1

By: Senator Williams of the 6<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the life and work of Marion Geneva Thompson Lyde; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Marion Geneva Thompson Lyde, a native of Brunswick, Georgia, was born to  
4 Clara and John Ervin Thompson on August 19, 1921, reared in Arco, Georgia, by her  
5 paternal grandmother, Ellen Gibbs, and educated in the public schools of Glynn County,  
6 Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, she attended the Golden Isles School of Business, earned professional  
8 certification from Florida State University, and continued her education with courses in  
9 leadership development, management, human resources, and urban responsibility; and

10 WHEREAS, she married Rev. Nelson L. Lyde, second pastor of Zion Baptist Church,  
11 becoming matriarch of a family which included 15 children from her husband's previous  
12 marriage and 12 children born to her and Rev. Lyde; and

13 WHEREAS, she and Rev. Lyde were the proud progenitors of 53 beloved grandchildren and  
14 29 cherished great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, she labored tirelessly on behalf of the downtrodden, the helpless, and the  
16 disenfranchised by providing spirited and innovative leadership as president of the  
17 Brunswick branch of the NAACP for 25 years, as NAACP state treasurer for 35 years, as the  
18 "Voice of the People" on a weekly radio broadcast, as a member of the Board of the Housing  
19 Authority, the Advisory Board of the Golden Isles African American Tourist Consortium,  
20 and as a founding member of the Black Chamber of Commerce and Save the People, Inc.;

21 and

1 WHEREAS, she participated in marches and sit-ins and volunteered for the Federation for  
2 the Blind, the Red Cross, the American Cancer Society, the United Way, the March of  
3 Dimes, Easter Seals, the Polio Foundation, and the Girl Scouts; and

4 WHEREAS, she served with distinction as an elected member of the Glynn County Board  
5 of Education for 16 years and was appointed to the Georgia Health Policy Council, the  
6 Georgia Educational Task Force, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Celebration  
7 Committee, President Clinton's Presidential Leadership Circle, and President Jimmy Carter's  
8 Commemorative Committee; and

9 WHEREAS, she was active in the national, state, and local Democratic party and  
10 spearheaded many voter registration drives, encouraging others to exercise their right to vote,  
11 and driving them to the polls if necessary; and

12 WHEREAS, she single-handedly tangled with the Ku Klux Klan on one occasion and  
13 paddled a boat down Stonewall Street during one of the worst floods in the area to help those  
14 who had suffered tremendous losses; and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to her multitudinous volunteer activities, she worked full-time as  
16 coordinator of the Community Action Agency and Equal Opportunity Officer of the Glynco  
17 Naval Air Station; and

18 WHEREAS, her unparalleled energy and vision were acclaimed on many occasions, in  
19 citations from Presidents Truman, Carter, and Clinton and from Governors Harris and Miller;  
20 recognition as one of the State's Heroines by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., as Woman  
21 of the Year by the National Council of Negro Women, as a recipient of the NAACP's Ruby  
22 Hurley Award several times, and as the honoree in the First Annual Ancestral and Love  
23 Celebration; and

24 WHEREAS, she was elegant in style; aggressive in any effort to win human and civil rights;  
25 feisty in championing her causes; stalwart in caring for the aged, infirm, and homeless;  
26 diligent in her service to improve the quality of life for all humankind; proud in her love for  
27 family and friends; firm in her convictions; steadfast in her faith; and profoundly immovable,  
28 and she will be sorely missed.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
2 join in commemorating the life and work of Marion Geneva Thompson Lyde, a remarkable  
3 activist, matriarch, and leader.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
5 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Marion Geneva Thompson  
6 Lyde.