

## Senate Resolution 665

By: Senators Levetan of the 40th, Henson of the 41st and Butler of the 55th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the contributions of Mrs. Eva Jewell "Mother Greene" Greene;  
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Eva Jewell Greene was born in 1922 in Maxeys, Georgia, and was  
4 educated in the Atlanta Public school system; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Greene and her family moved to DeKalb County where she immediately  
6 got involved in the community and the segregated Victoria Simmons Elementary School  
7 where she was instrumental in supporting and bringing to the school Mr. Jesse Dixon, the  
8 youngest principal in DeKalb County; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Greene and Mr. Dixon formed a partnership to address the growing needs  
10 of poor people in DeKalb County and sought to mirror Atlanta which in 1963 established an  
11 Economic Opportunity Agency (EOA) but were told by DeKalb officials that the county,  
12 with a mean household income of \$15,000.00 per year, had no need for anti-poverty  
13 programs; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1969, DeKalb County schools were integrated and, together, Mrs. Greene  
15 and Mr. Dixon wrote the first Head Start grant request for the DeKalb County School  
16 System; and

17 WHEREAS, because of Mrs. Greene's extensive community and public official contacts, she  
18 was able to garner considerable support for Head Start despite significant political obstacles;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Greene was not expected to succeed, but she persevered and brought  
21 together coalitions of poor people, both black and white, by emphasizing the point that Head  
22 Start and EOA were for everybody regardless of color; and

1 WHEREAS, due to her astounding achievements, she was being sought out by local public  
2 officials to share her advice on community issues and became an inspiration to rising leaders  
3 who saw Mrs. Greene as a mother figure they could rely upon to tell them the truth with  
4 kindness and compassion; and

5 WHEREAS, "Mother Greene," as she is affectionately known, has been recognized ever  
6 since as the Mother of Community Action in DeKalb County.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that this body recognizes and  
8 honors the contributions of Mrs. Eva Jewell "Mother Greene" Greene to the citizens and  
9 County of DeKalb.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
11 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Eva Jewell "Mother Greene"  
12 Greene.