

Senate Resolution 193

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Brown of the 26th, Miles of the 43rd, Seay of the 34th, Reed of the 35th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the inspiring life and countless achievements of Benedita da Silva;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Benedita da Silva was born in humble beginnings in Brazil on March 11, 1942,
4 at the Praia do Pinto favela and later moved with her family to Morro do Chapéu Mangueira,
5 where she lived for 57 years; and

6 WHEREAS, it was in Chapéu Mangueira that she developed her incredible assertiveness and
7 persuasion abilities, starting at the social level of teacher at a community school and later
8 funding and chairing the Chapéu Mangueira Women's Association; and

9 WHEREAS, she later co-founded and directed the organizations known as the Women's
10 Department of Faferj and the Favela and Outskirts Women's Center; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1982, she was elected city representative by the Workers Party of Rio de
12 Janeiro; in 1986, she was elected to the Federal House of Representatives, chairing the first
13 alternate post at the directing board of the House of Representatives during the National
14 Constitution Assembly; and in 1994, she became the first black woman in the Brazilian
15 Senate, with over 2 million votes; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1998, she was elected vice-governor of the State of Rio de Janeiro in charge
17 of all the governmental social programs and in 2000, she chaired the National Congress on
18 Fighting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; and

19 WHEREAS, on April 5, 2002, Benedita da Silva became the Governor of the State of Rio
20 de Janeiro, becoming the first woman in history to govern the state; and

21 WHEREAS, she was inducted in December 2003 by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as
22 Minister of Social Assistance; and

1 WHEREAS, the political life of Benedita da Silva is a benchmark of the new movement of
2 historical rising of the Afro-Brazilians, which started in the 1970's; and

3 WHEREAS, during her life and career, she has always emphasized her identity, based on the
4 triad which is a synthesis of exclusion in Brazil, of being a woman, black, and poor, which
5 she has turned into a positive element; and

6 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that this body recognize the remarkable and
7 inspiring ascent and work of this tireless and focused individual.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
9 join together to recognize and honor the incredible life and achievements of Ms. Benedita
10 da Silva.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
12 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Benedita da Silva.