

Senate Resolution 417

By: Senators Brown of the 26th, Butler of the 55th, Fort of the 39th, Seay of the 34th,
Thomas of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and legacy of Ray Charles; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on September 23, 1930, Ray Charles Robinson was born the first child of
3 Aretha and Baily Robinson in Albany, Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he rose from the tragedies of poverty, blindness, and the deaths of his younger
5 brother and mother to become a musical phenomenon and a national treasure; and
- 6 WHEREAS, music played a fundamental role in his life from a very young age when a man
7 by the name of Wylie Pitman taught him his first melodies on the piano; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the originality and genius of his music defies categorization and earned him 12
9 Grammy Awards; and he has been inducted into the Halls of Fame for his contributions to
10 rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock and roll and is credited with helping to popularize country
11 and western music; and
- 12 WHEREAS, he was a generous supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and an outspoken
13 advocate for the State of Israel, earning him recognition as the Beverly Hills Lodge of B'nai
14 Brith's "Man of the Year" in 1976; and
- 15 WHEREAS, in 1979, Ray Charles's classic rendition of "Georgia On My Mind" was
16 declared the official song of the State of Georgia, and he appeared on the floor of the State
17 Capitol to sing its first performance as such; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the story of Ray Charles is uniquely American and expresses those qualities and
19 dreams held most dear to our nation.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
2 join together to honor the life of Georgia's native son, the legendary Ray Charles, and
3 express their regret at his passing.

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 Ray Charles.