

## House Resolution 709

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Sims of the 151<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Mrs. Rita Jackson-Samuels for her dedicated public service; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Rita Jackson-Samuels is widely revered as an ardent and effective civil  
4 rights activist and a champion of women's rights; and

5 WHEREAS, she was the first black woman to work in the Governor's office, serving as  
6 Governor Jimmy Carter's Coordinator of the Governor's Council on Human Relations; and

7 WHEREAS, during her tenure in the Governor's office, she led efforts to hang the portraits  
8 of outstanding black Georgians in the state capitol, including portraits of Dr. Martin Luther  
9 King, Jr., Bishop Henry McNeil Turner, and Lucy Laney; and

10 WHEREAS, after serving under President Carter in Washington, D.C., she returned to  
11 Georgia and mobilized more than 300 women statewide to form the Georgia Coalition of  
12 Black Women, Inc., a women's advocacy training and development organization which has  
13 continually provided services to disadvantaged women and children and has encouraged  
14 women's participation in government and business; and

15 WHEREAS, she has served on numerous boards and committees and has been recognized  
16 by such distinguished awards as her selection as a Rosalynn Carter Fellow at the Institute of  
17 Women at Emory University and her repeated nomination as one of the 50 most influential  
18 African American women in Georgia; and

19 WHEREAS, March is set aside as Women's History Month to celebrate and honor those  
20 women who have contributed their time and talents to the betterment of this state and this  
21 nation, and it is only fitting and proper that this body recognize Mrs. Jackson-Samuels on this  
22 highly significant occasion.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
2 the members of this body join in recognizing Mrs. Rita Jackson-Samuels and honor her  
3 monumental record of achievement and advocacy on behalf of women and minorities  
4 throughout the State of Georgia and the nation.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Rita Jackson-Samuels.