

House Resolution 1539

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85th, Smyre of the 132nd, Watson of the 91st, Hanner of the 148th, Carter of the 159th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering the life of Honorable Eleanor L. Richardson, former member of the House of
2 Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Honorable Eleanor L. Richardson, former member of the House of
4 Representatives, passed away on February 21, 2006, leaving a tremendous void in the hearts
5 of all who knew and loved this most extraordinary Georgian; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson was born on March 17, 1913, in Middlesex County,
7 Massachusetts; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduating from Atherton Hall in Boston, she worked for an insurance
9 company in Massachusetts before moving to the Atlanta area; and

10 WHEREAS, as a long-time resident of Decatur, Georgia, she was involved in civic
11 organizations such as the League of Women Voters, serving as president of the DeKalb
12 League and then the Georgia League; and

13 WHEREAS, it was during this time that a friend urged her to run for a vacant seat in the
14 Georgia General Assembly, thus beginning an illustrious political career; and

15 WHEREAS, from 1975 until 1991, she served with great distinction as one of the first female
16 members in the House of Representatives, during which time she gained a unimpeachable
17 reputation as a faithful advocate for her district and a determined voice of the voiceless; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson's legislative priorities included issues related to the welfare of
19 children, women, the elderly, and the homeless, and her unwavering commitment to justice
20 and equality continually motivated her throughout her prolific tenure in office; and

1 WHEREAS, respected by her colleagues for her unflappable persona and determined
2 leadership, she served on several key House committees, including the Appropriations
3 Committee, the Health and Ecology Committee, and the State Planning and Community
4 Affairs Committee, where she served as chair of the local legislation subcommittee; and

5 WHEREAS, after retiring from public office, Mrs. Richardson was appointed to the newly
6 founded Georgia Commission on Women in 1992 and served as its first vice chair; in this
7 position and through her involvement with countless other boards and advocacy
8 organizations, she remained a tireless servant to her community and to the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson was a faithful and much beloved member of Glenn Memorial
10 United Methodist Church for over 45 years, highly active both in the local church and in her
11 denomination; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Richardson leaves behind a loving and devoted family, including her
13 husband, Merlyn Eldon Richardson; her daughter, Meryl Richardson Nolan; her two
14 grandsons, Gaillard Ravenel Nolan, Jr., and Merlyn Richardson Nolan; and her two
15 great-grandchildren, Hadley Jane Nolan and Parker Richardson Nolan; and

16 WHEREAS, dedicated to making the world a better place, this strong-willed and big-hearted
17 lady devoted her entire life to serving others, and she will always be remembered by this
18 body and the general public for her compassion, integrity, fairness, and unshakable
19 commitment to forging a more fair and just society.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 the members of this body join in remembering and honoring the life of their most esteemed
22 former colleague, Honorable Eleanor L. Richardson, in expressing their greatest sorrow at
23 her passing, and in extending their most sincere condolences to her family and friends.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
25 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Merlyn Eldon
26 Richardson.