

## House Resolution 1585

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Porter of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, and Stanley-Turner of the 53<sup>rd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Expressing regret at the passing of Lithangia Shannell Robinson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on February 27, 2008, the State of Georgia lost one of its finest and most  
3 distinguished citizen advocates, Lithangia Shannell Robinson; and
- 4 WHEREAS, she served her community tirelessly as a volunteer and an educator for 31 years;  
5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, she grew up in a time when many women did not attend college, yet she  
7 graduated from Clark College in Atlanta and received a master's degree from Atlanta  
8 University; and
- 9 WHEREAS, she continued her affiliation with Clark College and Atlanta University, serving  
10 on the steering committee to consolidate the two, as well as continuing to serve on the  
11 Clark-Atlanta University Guild; and
- 12 WHEREAS, she was a woman of leadership in education, serving as president-elect of the  
13 Association of Classroom Teachers from 1967 through 1969 and as president from 1969  
14 through 1971, as well as serving on numerous committees, later becoming president of the  
15 Georgia Association of Educators and continuing to lead as president of the Georgia  
16 Association of Retired Educators from 1991 through 1994 and thereafter as a board member;  
17 and
- 18 WHEREAS, her leadership skills included serving as a United States delegate for the  
19 National Education Association to the World Confederation of the Teaching Profession  
20 meeting held in Nigeria, Africa, in 1977; and
- 21 WHEREAS, she was a leader in her local community, as demonstrated by her appointment  
22 by then Mayor Maynard Jackson to the Community Relations Commission from 1992

1 through 1994, her participation in the Brown Field Airport Steering Committee, her service  
2 to the Grady Health System on its Senior Advisory Board, as well as her consistent advocacy  
3 with Fulton County for programs and services for older adults, including as a member of the  
4 Fulton County Council on Aging, participating in the planning and implementation of the  
5 building of the Harriett G. Darnell Senior Multipurpose Facility for which she served on the  
6 board as a member and as vice chair; and

7 WHEREAS, she provided guidance to state government through her advocacy efforts,  
8 serving on the Georgia Council on Aging since 1994, advocating with members of the  
9 General Assembly, and advising the Georgia Department of Human Resources and other  
10 state agencies about the concerns of older Georgians because she felt that "people need to see  
11 us as more than just old, crabby retirees. We need to be heard on the important issues"; and

12 WHEREAS, she was a dedicated servant of her church, St. Paul of the Cross Catholic  
13 Church, teaching religious education classes, serving as secretary, parliamentarian, and  
14 representing her parish at numerous religious conventions; and

15 WHEREAS, she was a steadfast member of the Democratic Party of Georgia, serving on its  
16 Executive Committee for a number of years, and was recognized by then Secretary of State  
17 Max Cleland for Outstanding Accomplishment in Voter Registration of Georgia Residents;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, she was recognized for her work by many organizations, including the Human  
20 Relations Award from the Southeast Regional Association of Classroom Teachers (1980),  
21 Volunteer of the Year Award from then Governor Joe Frank Harris (1984), Meritorious  
22 Service Award from the American Association of Retired Persons (1991), the Distinguished  
23 Alumni Award from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education  
24 (1994), Outstanding Citizen of Georgia Award from then Secretary of State Lewis Massey  
25 (1996), Trailblazer Award from St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church (1999), Senior of the  
26 Year 2001 from the Fulton County Human Services Department Office of Aging, National  
27 Education Association Retired Distinguished Service Award (2001), Georgia Gerontology  
28 Society Certificate of Merit (2001) and the John Tyler Mauldin Award (2005), Georgia's  
29 Legacy - Older Women Award from the Georgia Commission on Women (2004), Father  
30 H.C. Boudin Award from the Older Atlanta Task Force (2004), and Woman of Distinction  
31 by African-American Heritage Preservation Cultural Complex; and

1 WHEREAS, she exemplified the saying she often quoted, "service is the rent we pay for our  
2 time on earth"; and

3 WHEREAS, this pioneering African American woman of distinction who led by service to  
4 others has made the City of Atlanta, the County of Fulton, and the State of Georgia a better  
5 place for us all; and

6 WHEREAS, her friends and family will deeply feel her absence in their daily lives.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
8 the members of this body express their deepest and most sincere regret at the passing of  
9 Lithangia Shannell Robinson.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
11 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Lithangia  
12 Shannell Robinson.