

Senate Resolution 1333

By: Senator Orrock of the 36th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Joyce Brookshire; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Joyce Brookshire's music is a portrait of her life and the life of her community,  
3 the Cabbagetown Mill Village in the heart of downtown Atlanta, where she was born and  
4 raised; and

5 WHEREAS, in the 1880's folks from the North Georgia mountains moved to Atlanta and  
6 began to work at the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill, and Joyce's family was among those who  
7 brought their rural way of life to build a new community in the city; and

8 WHEREAS, Joyce's musical influences were many, including her father, a truck driver, who  
9 played guitar and sang in a quartet at the family church; neighbor Grace Mote, who played  
10 Kitty Wells and Webb Pierce on one of the first record players in the neighborhood; and the  
11 rhythm and blues and rock and roll music of the 1950's; and

12 WHEREAS, Joyce began writing songs at age ten and hasn't quit since; and

13 WHEREAS, in the early 1970's Joyce went to work at The Patch, a drop-in center for kids  
14 in crisis in the Cabbagetown neighborhood, and it was there that she met Esther LeFever,  
15 who was to have a major impact on Joyce's life as she was a folk singer, political activist,  
16 ex-Mennonite, and friend to the poor and disadvantaged and greatly nurtured Joyce's talent  
17 as a songwriter and performer; and

18 WHEREAS, in the 1970's and 1980's Joyce toured with folk legend Guy Carawan and lived  
19 in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area for several years playing with her band the Phantoms of  
20 the Opry with Phyllis Boyens, who played Loretta Lynn's mother in the movie *Coal Miner's*  
21 *Daughter*; and

1 WHEREAS, Joyce has used her songs to express not only her own feelings, but to become  
2 a voice for the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; and

3 WHEREAS, along with the Indigo Girls and other noted Atlanta musicians, Joyce is featured  
4 on the infamous *Don't Eat Out of Dented Cans* album produced by WRFG Radio; and

5 WHEREAS, her music has been featured in the theatrical productions *Cabbagetown: Three*  
6 *Women, Ponce de Leon, Blood on Blood*, and *Texas Two-Stepping with the Girls*; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1987 she was nominated for a Georgia Emmy for outstanding achievement  
8 in original music; and

9 WHEREAS, her first solo album, *North Georgia Mountains*, was released in 1977 by Foxfire  
10 Records; and

11 WHEREAS, Joyce, known as the "Empress of Cabbagetown" and its best known advocate  
12 and celebrity, continues to tell her wonderful stories through her music.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
14 commend Joyce Brookshire's outstanding contributions as a talented and successful  
15 songwriter and performer and as a magical storyteller through song.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
17 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Joyce Brookshire.