

Senate Resolution 1203

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Hooks of the 14th, Mullis of the 53rd, Thompson of the 33rd, Brown of the 26th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the Historic Oakland Foundation; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Atlanta's city fathers purchased six acres of land in 1850 to be used as a public
3 burial ground for the population of Atlanta, which then numbered approximately 2,500; and
- 4 WHEREAS, designed as a rural garden cemetery, Oakland Cemetery was named Atlanta
5 Graveyard or City Burial Place until 1872, by which time it had been greatly expanded due
6 to casualties from the Civil War; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the cemetery reached its present size in 1867 and serves as the burial location
8 of many prominent figures from Atlanta's history, with its last plots being sold in 1884; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the Historic Oakland Foundation was established in 1976, the same year the
10 cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and has dedicated over
11 three decades to restoring and preserving the rich history and tradition that exists in Oakland
12 Cemetery; and
- 13 WHEREAS, a place of great historical significance and a popular tourist attraction, Oakland
14 Cemetery was listed as one of "America's Best City Parks" in 2009 by forbes.com and as a
15 must see destination as one of the world's "50 Places of a Lifetime" by *National Geographic*
16 *Traveler* magazine; and
- 17 WHEREAS, on March 14, 2009, Oakland Cemetery sustained major damage from a tornado,
18 with over 100 trees and thousands of monuments damaged or destroyed; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the National Park Service, through a Save America's Treasures grant, awarded
20 Oakland Cemetery \$200,000 to repair its mausoleum collection, and the Historic Oakland
21 Foundation has diligently and conscientiously devoted its time, talents, and energy to
22 restoring damaged and destroyed monuments throughout the cemetery; and

23 WHEREAS, a project of huge undertaking, the restoration of Oakland Cemetery has been
24 a groundbreaking project for the Historic Oakland Foundation, one which has not been
25 attempted in Oakland or any cemetery before it; and

26 WHEREAS, this exemplary organization and all of its outstanding supporters have given
27 generously of their time and assets, thereby helping to maintain an important piece of this
28 state's and nation's history, and bringing honor and credit to the City of Atlanta and the State
29 of Georgia.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 recognize and commend the Historic Oakland Foundation for its many accomplishments and
32 contributions to Oakland Cemetery, the City of Atlanta, and the State of Georgia.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Historic Oakland Foundation.