

Senate Resolution 199

By: Senators James of the 35th and Davenport of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Markel Hutchins; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Reverend Markel Hutchins was born in Decatur, Georgia, on March 29, 1977,
3 and is a resident of the City of Atlanta; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Hutchins is well known as a "next generation" community, civil
5 rights, human rights, political, and social justice activist; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was the primary organizer of efforts to bring forth truth and justice regarding
7 the tragic and high-profile death of the late Mrs. Kathryn Johnston, the 92-year-old Atlanta
8 and Fulton County resident killed in a botched drug raid on Tuesday, November 21, 2006;
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, the tragic shooting death of the late Mrs. Kathryn Johnston touched the hearts,
11 minds, and consciences of people across the nation and around the world; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Reverend Hutchins served as the principal advocate, spokesperson, and public
13 face and voice for the case, cause, and family of the late Mrs. Johnston from the very evening
14 of her death on November 21, 2006, until the complete and final resolution of the matter on
15 August 17, 2010; and
- 16 WHEREAS, under the Reverend Hutchins's leadership, the tragic death of Mrs. Johnston led
17 to massive changes in police policies and procedures and an increased focus on police
18 accountability in Atlanta and in other law enforcement agencies across the State of Georgia
19 and around the country; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Reverend Hutchins successfully managed the volatile, plausibly divisive, and
21 potentially riotous aftermath of the tragic death of the late Mrs. Johnson with dignity, poise,
22 nonviolent advocacy, and strategic diplomacy, consistently meeting and appearing publicly

23 with local, state, and federal authorities in Georgia and in Washington, D.C., ultimately
24 bringing a great measure of justice and healing to the Johnston family, the
25 community-at-large, and the nation; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
27 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 commend Reverend Markel Hutchins for his years of diligent service and his dedicated
30 efforts to bring peace and justice to the Johnston family and the Atlanta community.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Markel Hutchins.