

## Senate Resolution 797

By: Senators Staton of the 18th and Paris of the 26th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Wesleyan College; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College was chartered on December 23, 1836, as the first college in  
3 the world to grant degrees to women, 84 years before women in America were allowed to  
4 vote; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College was founded through the efforts of a group of Macon citizens  
6 and the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as evidence of their concern  
7 for the education of women; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College has always been a women's college and has remained in  
9 continuous existence even through wartime; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the first secret societies for women, Adelphean Society (Alpha Delta Pi) in  
11 1851 and Philomathean Society (Phi Mu) in 1852, were founded at Wesleyan College; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the world's first Alumnae Association was founded at Wesleyan College on July  
13 11, 1859; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College established America's first professorship in English literature  
15 in 1844, held by the Reverend Josiah Fletcher Andrew; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College held the first formal inauguration of a college president in  
17 Georgia for Dr. Dice Robins Anderson in 1932; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the first woman in Georgia to receive the Doctor of Medicine degree was Mary  
19 McKay, Class of 1878; and

20 WHEREAS, the first woman to argue a case before the Georgia Court of Appeals or the  
21 Georgia Supreme Court and the first woman to hold an elective office in the State of Georgia  
22 was Viola Ross Napier, Class of 1901; and

23 WHEREAS, the first Chinese women in Georgia to be educated in America, Soong sisters  
24 Madame H.H. Kung, Madame Sun Yat-sen, and Madame Chiang Kai-shek, were educated  
25 at Wesleyan College; and

26 WHEREAS, the first woman in Georgia to be issued a commercial pilot's license was Hazel  
27 Jane Raines, Class of 1936; and

28 WHEREAS, the first woman chair of the Press Institute of the Georgia Press Association was  
29 Adelaide Wallace Ponder, Class of 1946; and

30 WHEREAS, the first Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award for  
31 Campus-Community Collaboration was awarded to Wesleyan College in November, 2000,  
32 for "Aunt Maggie's Kitchen Table" outreach center; and

33 WHEREAS, Neva Langley Fickling, Georgia's first and only Miss America (1953), is a  
34 Wesleyan alumna, Class of 1955; and

35 WHEREAS, Kathryn Striping Byer, Wesleyan Class of 1996, was the first woman to be  
36 appointed poet laureate of the State of North Carolina (2005); and

37 WHEREAS, the first woman to be ordained bishop of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the  
38 Unites States Methodist Conference (1996) was Charlene Payne Kammerer, Class of 1970;  
39 and

40 WHEREAS, the first woman president of the Florida Senate (1996) and first woman Lt.  
41 Governor of the State of Florida (2003) was Antoinette "Toni" Jennings, Class of 1971; and

42 WHEREAS, Janice A. Mays, Class of 1973, was the first woman staff director for the United  
43 States House Ways and Means Committee and the first woman to serve in the roles of  
44 Democratic Chief Counsel and Chief Tax Counsel; and

45 WHEREAS, in 1976, the Rotary Club of Macon, in conjunction with Wesleyan College,  
46 initiated the first Rotary International Intern Program; and

47 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College's newly renovated Taylor Hall is the college's first  
48 LEED-certified green building and the first LEED-certified project in Macon, Georgia; and  
49 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College is recognized today as one of the nation's finest liberal arts  
50 colleges and is consistently recognized for academic excellence, affordability, diversity,  
51 service learning, and community leadership, as well as its unique international student  
52 population; and

53 WHEREAS, 90 percent of Wesleyan's full-time faculty members hold the terminal degree  
54 in their respective disciplinary areas; and

55 WHEREAS, Wesleyan College is not only celebrating its 175th year of educating women,  
56 but is also preparing to educate women for the next 175 years and beyond.

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
58 commend Wesleyan College for realizing its mission to be a pioneer for women's education,  
59 with thousands of alumnae having served their communities, churches, and professions,  
60 anchored in tradition and guided by an innovative spirit, and for preparing a new generation  
61 of leaders who will ensure a strong and vibrant future for the State of Georgia; and  
62 recognizes not only Wesleyan's prestigious legacy of advancing women but also its  
63 commitment to remaining first for women.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
65 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Wesleyan College.