

Senate Resolution 946

By: Senators James of the 35th, Jones of the 10th, Seay of the 34th, Orrock of the 36th, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending the Honorable Leroy R. Johnson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, in 1962, Leroy R. Johnson was the first black senator elected to the Georgia
3 General Assembly since Reconstruction; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he became the first black elected official to have his portrait hung in the Senate
5 Chamber and the first living person other than the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to have
6 it hung in the state capitol; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he is a graduate of North Carolina School of Law and received a Bachelor of
8 Arts degree from Morehouse College and a Master of Arts from Atlanta University; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the Honorable Leroy Johnson has owned and managed Leroy R. Johnson and
10 Associates, P.C. for 47 successful years and primarily practices in the areas of probate and
11 estate, criminal, domestic relations, and personal injury; and
- 12 WHEREAS, during the times when black lawyers and law students could not find jobs in
13 white firms, he opened the doors of his practice to several lawyers, many of whom have since
14 become judges in Fulton County and the City of Atlanta, including Judge Marvin Arrington,
15 Sr., Judge Clarence Cooper, Judge Andrew A. Mickles, and Judge Harris Bostic; and
- 16 WHEREAS, throughout the many years, former Senator Johnson has represented famous
17 people, such as James Brown, Johnny Taylor, Otis Redding, Hank Aaron, Tom Payne of the
18 Atlanta Hawks, and Joel Williams of the Atlanta Falcons; and
- 19 WHEREAS, an active member of his community, he is co-counsel for the Fulton County
20 Development Authority and Chairman of the Butler Street YMCA Board of Directors; and

21 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, he is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees
22 for Ebenezer Baptist Church where he has been a member for 40 years; and

23 WHEREAS, he has been honored numerous times, receiving the Russwurn Award in 1962,
24 the NAACP Freedom Award in 1963, the NAACP Image Award in 1970, the Herman S.
25 Prescott Award in 1971, and the Benjamin E. Mayes "Bennie" Award in 2007; and

26 WHEREAS, he is united in love and marriage to Cleopatra Whittington Johnson and from
27 this union blessed with a remarkable son, Michael V. Johnson, and three adored
28 granddaughters, Melani, Melissa, and Michelle; and

29 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
30 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
32 commend the Honorable Leroy R. Johnson for his many years of efficient, effective,
33 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Honorable Leroy R. Johnson.