

Senate Resolution 1043

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Fort of the 39th, Henson of the 41st, Carter of the 42nd, Tate of the 38th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending John Sweet for being honored with the Lifetime Achievement
2 Award by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, John Sweet has long been recognized by the citizens of this state for the vital
5 role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the
6 citizens of Georgia, and he is being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the
7 State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism on February 28,
8 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, John Sweet's service in Georgia began with his arrival in Atlanta as a Volunteer
10 in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer in 1968; and

11 WHEREAS, he attained his law degree from the Atlanta Law School and began practicing
12 on July 1, 1975, and has since donated countless hours of legal work to important legal issues
13 of our time, representing pro bono over 200 survivors of domestic violence and serving as
14 the first attorney of record of plaintiffs in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which created the initial legal
15 headwinds that culminated 17 years later in the Supreme Court's decision in *Lawrence v.*
16 *Texas* (2003); and

17 WHEREAS, he seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable and poorest members of the
18 community, whether they be homeless, incarcerated, abused, or simply poor, receive
19 representation; and

20 WHEREAS, John Sweet has actively served his community as a member of the Atlanta City
21 Council, on the board of the Atlanta Housing Authority, and as a representative on the
22 executive committee of EarthShare; chaired the Metro Fair Housing Services board, the
23 Workers' Compensation Section of the State Bar Association, and the Executive Committee
24 of the Workers' Compensation Claimants' Lawyers Section of the Georgia Trial Lawyers

25 Association; cofounded Georgia Conservation Voters and the BOND Community Federal
26 Credit Union; and was a supporter of the Sierra Club in its fight to stop new coal plants from
27 polluting Georgia; and

28 WHEREAS, he devoted extraordinary time and energy to Georgia's environmental
29 movement through service as a visionary leader and chair for ten years of GreenLaw; and

30 WHEREAS, deeply committed to youth, John Sweet launched the Atlanta Youth Soccer
31 Association and Phoenix Youth Soccer Association to serve thousands of children in the
32 absence of in-town youth soccer leagues, recruiting parent coaches, securing and clearing
33 fields, as well as coaching and refereeing himself; and

34 WHEREAS, his labors speak volumes about his extraordinary generosity of spirit, his vision
35 of institution-building in service of the community, and his willingness to contribute his time
36 and talent for the greater good; and

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

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 recognize John Sweet for his efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service over
41 the last 40 years to the State of Georgia and commend him for being honored with the
42 Lifetime Achievement Award by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's
43 Commission on Professionalism.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to John Sweet.