

## House Resolution 1709

By: Representatives Beasley-Teague of the 65<sup>th</sup>, Kendrick of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Dickerson of the 95<sup>th</sup>, Dawkins-Haigler of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, Stephenson of the 92<sup>nd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of the Honorable Betty Jean Clark; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of the Honorable Betty Jean Clark on April 14, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, she graduated from Howard High in 1964 and went on to graduate from the  
5 Atlanta Area Technical School in 1969; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Representative Clark was employed as a secretary for Scripto when she was  
7 inspired to seek office; and
- 8 WHEREAS, when she joined the Georgia House of Representatives in 1973, Representative  
9 Betty Jean Clark was said to be the youngest woman and youngest black woman ever elected  
10 to state legislature; and
- 11 WHEREAS, she was tapped to chair the Human Relations and Aging committee in 1985, an  
12 appointment that, at the time, was considered a plum for female legislators; and
- 13 WHEREAS, she introduced a bill in 1986 ordering the state to deny funds to any school  
14 board, city, or county government that refused to observe the Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
15 holiday and alienated AIDS advocacy groups in 1987 when she proposed a bill that would  
16 require anyone who knew they had AIDS or the AIDS virus to notify health professionals  
17 who provided treatment for them for other reasons; and
- 18 WHEREAS, after serving diligently and conscientiously, devoting innumerable hours of her  
19 time, talents, and energy toward the betterment of her community and state as evidenced  
20 dramatically by her superlative service with the state for 17 years, she left office in 1990; and

21 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
22 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example she made of her life,  
23 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

24 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Representative Clark will long be  
25 remembered for her love of family and friendship, and this loyal colleague and friend will  
26 be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
28 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of the Honorable Betty Jean  
29 Clark and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable  
32 Betty Jean Clark.