

Senate Resolution 1132

By: Senator Sims of the 12th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Lawrence J. Hanks, Sr.; 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 Dr. Lawrence J. Hanks, Sr., on November 10, 2011; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Dr. Hanks was born on April 17, 1954, in Fort Gaines, Georgia, a beloved son
5 of James and Kathleen Hanks; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he attended Ashbury Speight Elementary School and Speight Middle School
7 and graduated from Clay County High School in 1972; and
- 8 WHEREAS, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Morehouse College in 1976 and earned
9 his Master of Arts in government in 1978 and Doctor of Philosophy in government in 1984
10 from Harvard University's Department of Government; and
- 11 WHEREAS, he served as the Dean for the Office of African American Affairs and Associate
12 Professor in the Department of Political Science from 1993 to 1998 and was a Professor of
13 Political Science at Indiana University; and
- 14 WHEREAS, a passionate researcher, Dr. Hanks' diverse research interests included black
15 political empowerment, African American political thought and action, race and politics, and
16 the politics of difference; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, the American Political Science
18 Association, Southern Political Science Association, and the National Council of Black
19 Political Scientists; and

20 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Dr. Hanks was a former member of the St.
21 Luke's Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Gaines, Georgia, and an active member of Second
22 Baptist Church in Bloomington, Indiana; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Hanks was united in love and marriage to Mrs. Diane G. Hanks and was
24 blessed with three remarkable children, Shonda Hanks, Lawrence J. Hanks II, and Mahogany
25 A. Hanks; and

26 WHEREAS, he was deeply loved and admired by his brothers and sisters, Frances, Carolyn,
27 Hasan, and Paul; and

28 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern
29 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his
30 family and friends were admired by others; and

31 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
32 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he
33 made this world a better place in which to live; and

34 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Dr. Hanks will long be remembered for his
35 love of family and friendship, and this loyal son, husband, father, and friend will be missed
36 by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Lawrence J. Hanks, Sr., and express their deepest
39 and most sincere regret at his passing.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Lawrence J. Hanks, Sr.