

Senate Resolution 131

By: Senators James of the 35th and Dugan of the 30th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Ms. Dorothy Danley Sparks; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dorothy Danley Sparks was born in Fairplay, Georgia, a beloved daughter of  
3 Lunie and Frances Bowen Danley at a time when sharecropping was the means of survival  
4 for families in the rural South; and

5 WHEREAS, after graduating from R.L. Cousins High School, she attended Clark College  
6 of Atlanta, Georgia, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science with a  
7 concentration in behavior science and a minor in secondary education; and

8 WHEREAS, upon completion of college in three and a half years, she returned home and  
9 worked as substitute teacher at her former alma mater, R.L. Cousins High School, where she  
10 worked until 1967, when the Douglas County School System was totally integrated; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1967, when the federal government abolished the dual school system and  
12 required all students to report to the schools in their communities, Ms. Sparks became one  
13 of the first African American teachers to integrate Douglas County High School; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1973, Ms. Sparks received a master's degree in education from West Georgia  
15 College in Carrollton, Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Sparks's tenure at Douglas County High School extended from 1967 to  
17 1995, and she served as the social studies department head for 23 of those 28 years; and

18 WHEREAS, she received the Teacher of the Year award in 1994 and retired in 1995 with 32  
19 years of experience; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Sparks served on the board of directors for the Douglasville, Douglas  
21 County Water and Sewer Authority for ten years, three of which as chairman; and

22 WHEREAS, during her years as an educator, Ms. Sparks and her husband were blessed with  
23 two beautiful daughters, Melody Sparks Saffo and Mandy Sparks Johnson, and four  
24 remarkable grandchildren; and

25 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, she has been a member of New Mountain  
26 Top Baptist Church in Winston, Georgia, for over 50 years where she teaches an adult bible  
27 class and serves on various committees; and

28 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the accomplishments of this remarkable  
29 Georgian be commemorated as a testament to the power of one passionate educator to inspire  
30 and enlighten countless young minds.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 commend Ms. Dorothy Danley Sparks for her commitment to teaching, recognize the impact  
33 of her dedication to elevating the minds of her students over her impressive career, and wish  
34 her many years of health and happiness.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Dorothy Danley Sparks.