

Senate Resolution 336

By: Senator Orrock of the 36th

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Ms. Fay Bellamy Powell; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of a remarkable individual, Ms. Fay  
3 Bellamy Powell, who passed away in January 2013; and
- 4 WHEREAS, she was born and raised in Clairton, Pennsylvania, by her aunts, who were  
5 originally from southwest Georgia; and
- 6 WHEREAS, her grandparents moved the family north to give their children an opportunity  
7 for a better education; Ms. Powell attended one year of business school and later enlisted in  
8 the United States Air Force; and
- 9 WHEREAS, she moved south, becoming involved in the Civil Rights Movement in Selma,  
10 Alabama, and played a central role at WRFG, a progressive radio station; and
- 11 WHEREAS, she came to WRFG after her activism in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating  
12 Committee (SNCC) in Selma, Alabama, where she worked in communications in the SNCC  
13 office and as an assistant to James Forman and Stokely Carmichael, founded the SNCC  
14 newsletter "The Africanamerican," and was part of the SNCC delegation that traveled to the  
15 USSR in 1966; and
- 16 WHEREAS, she was also responsible for bringing Malcolm X to speak to the Selma activists  
17 and is referred to by Malcolm X in Alex Haley's *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Ms. Powell served on the WRFG Board of Directors in the 1970's and became  
19 the first black woman to serve as board chair and also served on the station's Program  
20 Committee and set the tone for the station's progressive stance on issues of civil rights; and

21 WHEREAS, her show on WRFG, "Inside-Out," focused on prison issues and appealed to  
22 inmates at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, where she had a significant following for years;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Fay Bellamy passed away leaving a sizable and renowned legacy of her  
25 work for justice, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that she be honored.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 join in honoring the life and memory of Ms. Fay Bellamy Powell and express their deepest  
28 and most sincere regret at her passing.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Fay Bellamy Powell.