

## Senate Resolution 1109

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th and McKoon of the 29th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Sandra Okamoto; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Sandra Okamoto, a longtime arts reporter for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer,  
3 retired in January, 2014; she started working at the newspaper in January of 1975; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the 39-year veteran of the Ledger-Enquirer was honored by the Springer Opera  
5 House at its annual season announcement; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Springer Opera House Artistic Director Paul Pierce commented that: "This is  
7 my 26th season here and pretty much every show that I've done in 26 years, Sandra covered  
8 -- plus all of the events, all of the things that happened here, season announcements, an  
9 important hiring, a death in the family. All of the things that happen in an arts community,  
10 Sandra had been a part of in our theater community."; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Okamoto accepted her award Thursday to loud applause; behind her on stage,  
12 different pictures scrolled from throughout her career. "This is an award that usually goes  
13 to a major donor, an actor, a longtime board member, a super volunteer -- and I'm none of  
14 those," Okamoto said. "I'm also not an actor, a singer, a dancer, a painter. I can't even play  
15 an instrument. But I can write about all those people who did and that's what I did for almost  
16 40 years and I loved it."; and
- 17 WHEREAS, she will be honored with a star in the Springer Theatre Academy's education  
18 center.
- 19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
20 recognize and commend Sandra Okamoto on her service to the arts community in Columbus,  
21 Georgia, and congratulate her on her retirement.

- 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
23 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Sandra Okamoto.