

House Resolution 217

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57th, Abrams of the 89th, Jones of the 53rd, Hugley of the 136th, Smyre of the 135th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Mary Long and inviting her to be recognized by the House of Representatives;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mary Nathaniel Long was born in Guthrie, Kentucky, in 1941, and she moved
4 to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1960, to be trained at the Grady Memorial Hospital's School of
5 Nursing, from which she graduated in 1963; and

6 WHEREAS, she began her nursing career as an ambulatory care nurse at Grady and gained
7 extensive experience volunteering at Atlanta's free clinics and assisting local health
8 organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, Mary Long was at the center of Grady's active effort to reach the greater Atlanta
10 community through participation in Economic Opportunity Atlanta's health fairs in 1969, and
11 she also helped to develop Grady's satellite clinics; and

12 WHEREAS, she served the Georgia Nurses Association and its philanthropic organization,
13 the Georgia Nurses Foundation, as an active member and chairperson of the Governmental
14 Affairs Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, she gained experience lobbying the Georgia General Assembly over key
16 Medical Practice Act legislation in 1980, and she was elected President of the Georgia
17 Nurses Association in 1981, making her the first African American to hold that position; and

18 WHEREAS, Mary Long became Vice President for Legislative Affairs for the Arthritis
19 Foundation in 1985, and in 1996 she was promoted to the Foundation's Group Vice President
20 for Public Policy and Advocacy, a position she held until 2002; and

21 WHEREAS, she coordinated lobbying and advocacy activities by supervising staff,
22 overseeing the development of policy statements, and motivating and training staff and

23 volunteers in chapters nationwide for involvement in the legislative process, both in their
24 states and on the federal level; and

25 WHEREAS, as the first minority woman to lobby the Georgia General Assembly, Mary
26 Long chaired the Georgia Nurses Association's political action committee, GNA-PAC, before
27 serving on the board of directors of the national ANA-PAC; and

28 WHEREAS, she co-authored a chapter on state government for the book *Political Action*
29 *Handbook for Nurses* in 1985; and

30 WHEREAS, she was an active part of the movement to pass the Equal Rights Amendment
31 in Georgia and was secretary of the group ERA Georgia from 1979 to 1980, and she was the
32 first minority woman to win the Mamie K. Taylor Award for Outstanding Contributions to
33 Human Rights and Women's Equality from the Georgia Women's Political Caucus for her
34 efforts; and

35 WHEREAS, she has been honored with the Atlanta Urban League's Distinguished Service
36 Award and the Atlanta Women's Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Georgia
37 Nurses Foundation named the Mary N. Long Award for Innovations in Nursing Practice after
38 this distinguished woman; and

39 WHEREAS, Mary Long was a pioneer in both her career as a lobbyist and in the nursing
40 profession, and her lifetime of outstanding accomplishments are a testament to her hard
41 work, determination, and good character.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body commend Mary Nathaniel Long and invite her to be recognized
44 by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the
45 House of Representatives.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
47 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Mary
48 Nathaniel Long.