

Senate Resolution 280

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th, Sims of the 12th, Harbison of the 15th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Mary Nathaniel Long for her many achievements; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Mary Nathaniel Long was born in Guthrie, Kentucky, in 1941, and she moved
3 to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1960, to be trained at the Grady Memorial Hospital's School of
4 Nursing, from which she graduated in 1963; and
- 5 WHEREAS, she began her nursing career as an ambulatory care nurse at Grady and gained
6 extensive experience volunteering at Atlanta's free clinics and assisting local health
7 organizations; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Mary Long was at the center of Grady's active effort to reach the greater Atlanta
9 community through participation in Economic Opportunity Atlanta's health fairs in 1969, and
10 she also helped to develop Grady's satellite clinics; and
- 11 WHEREAS, she served the Georgia Nurses Association and its philanthropic organization,
12 the Georgia Nurses Foundation, as an active member and chairperson of the Governmental
13 Affairs Commission; and
- 14 WHEREAS, she gained experience lobbying the Georgia General Assembly over key
15 Medical Practice Act legislation in 1980, and she was elected President of the Georgia
16 Nurses Association in 1981, making her the first African American to hold that position; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Mary Long became Vice President for Legislative Affairs for the Arthritis
18 Foundation in 1985, and in 1996 she was promoted to the Foundation's Group Vice President
19 for Public Policy and Advocacy, a position she held until 2002; and
- 20 WHEREAS, she coordinated lobbying and advocacy activities by supervising staff,
21 overseeing the development of policy statements, and motivating and training staff and

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 commend Mary Nathaniel Long for her many accomplishments and extend their most sincere
43 and heartfelt wishes for many more years of success and happiness.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
45 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mary Nathaniel
46 Long.