

Senate Resolution 446

By: Senator James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Evelyn Gibson Lowery and recognizing the Southern
2 Christian Leadership Conference women for their international works; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
5 with the passing of Evelyn Gibson Lowery on September 26, 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Evelyn Gibson Lowery was born on February 16, 1925, in Memphis,
7 Tennessee, a beloved daughter of civil rights activists Reverend Dr. Harry Gibson and
8 Evelyn Gibson, who provided her with the inspiration that drove her to devote her life to the
9 cause of human rights at both the national and international levels; and

10 WHEREAS, Evelyn attended Clark College and Youngstown University, and in 1950, she
11 was united in love and marriage to Reverend Joseph Lowery, the President Emeritus of the
12 Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and

13 WHEREAS, Evelyn Gibson Lowery spent her life working tirelessly for civil rights, and she
14 marched in the historic Selma to Montgomery March in 1965 and reenacted the trip several
15 times throughout her life; and

16 WHEREAS, she founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women's
17 Organizational Movement for Equality Now, Inc. (W.O.M.E.N.), the sister organization of
18 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that was created to champion the rights of
19 women, children, and families and responded to the problems of the disenfranchised
20 regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, or religion; and

21 WHEREAS, through W.O.M.E.N., Evelyn Gibson Lowery spearheaded education and
22 mentoring programs and HIV/AIDS awareness initiatives and raised more than \$350,000 for
23 scholarships for high school seniors; and

24 WHEREAS, she created the Drum Major for Justice Award in 1980, which recognizes men
25 and women who have contributed to the cause of freedom, equality, and achievement in their
26 professional fields; and

27 WHEREAS, Evelyn Gibson Lowery was instrumental in the erection of the Civil Rights
28 Freedom Wall in Perry County, Alabama, and the erection of monuments honoring Civil
29 Rights Movement icons such as Viola Liuzzo, John Lewis, and Hosea Williams; and

30 WHEREAS, in 2004, she was honored at the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the
31 Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia; and

32 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
33 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she made of her life,
34 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

35 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Evelyn Gibson Lowery will long be
36 remembered for her dedication to equality and human rights, and this loyal wife, activist, and
37 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 join in honoring the life and memory of Evelyn Gibson Lowery, express their deepest and
40 most sincere regret at her passing, and commend the Southern Christian Leadership
41 Conference women for their international works.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
44 Evelyn Gibson Lowery.