

House Resolution 713

By: Representatives Sims of the 123rd, Howard of the 124th, and Frazier of the 126th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Clymonteen Livingston Jones for outstanding public service to her community;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Clymonteen Livingston Jones was raised in the small town of Hahira, Georgia,
4 and graduated from Lamar School of Nursing in 1953; she worked at University and St.
5 Joseph Hospitals before joining Talmadge Memorial Hospital in 1956; and

6 WHEREAS, in order to ensure that all nurses were treated equally regardless of race, Ms.
7 Jones met with the nursing director and asked that all of the nurses be referred to in the same
8 way, which won her the esteem of many of the doctors; and

9 WHEREAS, as one of the first two black registered nurses hired at Talmadge Memorial
10 Hospital, she not only helped set up the first units to receive patients but also later helped
11 create the first maximum security unit inside a hospital in Georgia to receive prisoners; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Jones and another nurse wrote the procedures and policies for the
13 maximum security unit, which were influenced by her own experiences with racism, and
14 made it a policy that the nurses would not know why a patient was incarcerated to avoid
15 potential prejudice in treatment; and

16 WHEREAS, she published this philosophy in a 1981 article in *Corrections Today Magazine*
17 titled, "Patients First, Prisoners Second"; and

18 WHEREAS, she became the first black head nurse of a unit in 1968 and was held in high
19 regard for performing her job exceptionally well as both a staff and head nurse; and

20 WHEREAS, she retired in 1986 and received a proclamation from Governor Joe Frank
21 Harris praising her work; and

22 WHEREAS, February's Black History Month often focuses on great leaders or fearless
23 protesters and overlooks the unsung quiet pioneers such as Ms. Jones who helped transform
24 the environment around them without fanfare; and

25 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
26 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body commend Clymonteen Livingston Jones for her efficient, effective,
29 unselfish, and dedicated public service to the State of Georgia.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
32 Clymonteen Livingston Jones.