

Senate Resolution 927

By: Senators Watson of the 1st, Burke of the 11th, Cowser of the 46th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Jackson of the 2nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Dr. Lois T. Ellison, Augusta University's medical historian in
2 residence, for her contributions to the Georgia Composite Medical Board and the state's
3 medical school; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Lois T. Ellison graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1950
5 after completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, she completed a cardiopulmonary physiology fellowship and was then
7 appointed to the MCG faculty, helping to develop the university's cardiopulmonary
8 laboratory and serving as its director until 1992; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Ellison was an established research fellow and investigator for the Georgia
10 Heart Association, earning a highly competitive Research Career Award from the National
11 Heart Institute of the National Institutes of Health from 1963 to 1968; and

12 WHEREAS, she has held numerous administrative roles at the Medical College of Georgia
13 and the university, including associate dean for curriculum for the medical school and
14 university provost, making her the highest ranking female in US Medical Schools at the time;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Ellison was the first female president of the Georgia Thoracic Society, the
17 first woman to serve as an at-large member of Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and the
18 former president of the American Lung Association of Georgia, and she served as the
19 national president of the American Lung Association, and received its highest honor, the Will
20 Ross Medal, for her contributions to preventing and controlling lung disease; and

21 WHEREAS, she oversaw the expansion of the university's clinical facilities and the addition
22 of the Medical Office Building, the Specialized Care Center, and the Children's Hospital of
23 Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Ellison retired as professor emeritus and provost emeritus in 2000 but
25 remains on faculty as the university's medical historian in residence; and

26 WHEREAS, she was a charter member of the Augusta University Research Institute and
27 served as the first female president of the MCG Alumni Association from 1988 to 1989; and

28 WHEREAS, both well-known philanthropists, Dr. Ellison and her late husband, Robert, have
29 supported both the Robert G. Ellison, MD, Distinguished Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery
30 and the Lois Taylor Ellison, MD, Scholarship Endowment to support medical students; and

31 WHEREAS, she was featured in the 2003 National Institutes of Health National Library of
32 Medicine exhibition, "Changing the Face of Medicine — Celebrating America's Women
33 Physicians," honoring the lives and accomplishments of women in medicine in hopes of
34 inspiring a new generation; and

35 WHEREAS, Dr. Ellison's work was integral to helping compile a history of the Georgia
36 Composite Medical Board for the Federation of State Medical Boards' History of Medicine;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, her legacy of service embodies the mission of the state's medical school — to
39 lead Georgia and the nation to better health through excellence in biomedical education,
40 discovery, patient care, and service.

41 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize and honor Dr. Lois T. Ellison for her lasting contributions in medical education,
43 research, and patient care and commend her continuing contributions to preserving the
44 history of medical education in Georgia.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. Lois T.
47 Ellison.