

Senate Resolution 930

By: Senators James of the 35th and Rhett of the 33rd

#### A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing the legacy of Drexel Catholic High School; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, The Most Reverend Francis E. Hyland, the Bishop of the Roman Catholic  
3 Diocese of Atlanta, from 1956-1961, decided to open a high school for the purpose of  
4 providing quality education for African-American Catholic and non-Catholic students; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the trustees of the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, Inc., in  
6 Wilmington, Delaware, generously granted the diocese the funds for the new school; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the school was erected at 631 Harwell Road, NW, on a property that was  
8 formally owned by the Medical Mission Sisters; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the school was built by Van Winkle and Company of Atlanta, and named in  
10 honor of Mother Mary Katherine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament,  
11 and a pioneer in the work of interracial justice; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Drexel Catholic High School was built to accommodate 300 students, and when  
13 it opened in September 1961, it started with a freshman class of 33 students; and
- 14 WHEREAS, a grade was added each year until they reached a complete four-year high  
15 school, and in June of 1965, enrollment was 122, and the school graduated its first senior  
16 class; and
- 17 WHEREAS, on September 23, 1962, the Most Reverend Paul J. Hallinan, the Archbishop  
18 of Atlanta, dedicated the building, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the Sisters of the Most  
19 Blessed Sacrament were the original members of the faculty, including Sister Mary Donatus,  
20 S.S.J., Sister Maureen Patricia, S.B.S., and Sister Mary Francois, S.B.S.; and

21 WHEREAS, the Archdiocese saw that it was not feasible for enrollment to grow, from other  
22 segments of Atlanta, in order for the school to become large enough to fully provide the  
23 highest quality education envisioned, so the school was closed in June of 1967 after  
24 graduating only three senior classes; and

25 WHEREAS, although the school closed, Drexel students and faculty members share a special  
26 kinship, and the alumni have worked diligently to organize and contribute their legacy to the  
27 archives of the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
29 recognize the legacy of Drexel Catholic High School, which will serve as a resource and  
30 inspiration to all in the unique achievements and history of African Americans.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
32 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
33 press.