

Senate Resolution 1076

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, James of the 35th, Sims of the 12th, Fort of the 39th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Atlanta Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College
4 began in August 1914, when several Spelman graduates met at the home of Mrs. Mary James
5 Wardlaw, who would become its first president; and

6 WHEREAS, the organization, whose colors are white and gold, whose symbolic flower is
7 the white rose, and whose motto is "Lifting as we climb," was the first of almost 60 alumnae
8 clubs, now called chapters, that exist today; and

9 WHEREAS, over the years, the name of the Atlanta chapter changed numerous times; in
10 1976, when the national organization became the National Alumnae Association of Spelman
11 College, a 501(c)(3) organization separate from the College, the Atlanta Spelman Club, as
12 it was previously known, became the Atlanta Chapter of NAASC and a part of the
13 Southeastern Region of NAASC; and

14 WHEREAS, focus on sisterhood is and has been integral to the functioning of the Atlanta
15 Chapter, demonstrated by class reunions that bring together sisters from across generations
16 and around the world and the annual April meeting of local alumnae gathering with the
17 president of the College; and

18 WHEREAS, though the Atlanta Chapter, today, includes both former students and graduates,
19 in the early years, membership in The Spelman Graduates of Atlanta Club was limited to
20 Spelman graduates; and

21 WHEREAS, dedicated service to the College and the community has been central in the
22 work of the Atlanta Chapter and support for Spelman students and programs has been
23 paramount; an early example of the Atlanta Club's service to the College occurred in 1923,

24 when the alumnae used their own automobiles to drive faculty to visit notable African
25 American businesses and communities in order to educate faculty about the rich resources
26 in the Atlanta community so that they might identify ways for their students to connect their
27 studies to these resources; and

28 WHEREAS, Spelman students have benefited from many acts of loving service by local
29 alumnae; one example is the reception for new students; before the orientation begins on
30 campus, the Atlanta Chapter hosts a social event for new students from Metropolitan Atlanta
31 to help them get to know local alumnae who are their big sisters and prepare for their
32 Spelman experience; and

33 WHEREAS, in the 21st century, the Atlanta Chapter has continued to be active in many
34 service projects, including Christmas celebrations at nursing homes; Christmas season
35 adopt-a-family projects; the United Way shoe box project that provides toiletries for
36 homeless women; donations of clothing appropriate for work to homeless women seeking
37 jobs; and donations of school supplies to Atlanta schools; and

38 WHEREAS, in addition to supporting local charities, at their annual brunch, the Atlanta
39 Chapter recognizes and honors Atlanta residents for their leadership in the community with
40 the "Outstanding Community Service Award"; and

41 WHEREAS, alumnae who have served on the Atlanta Chapter include current State
42 Representative and Minority Whip Stacey Abrams, State Representative Henrietta Turnquest,
43 State Representative Alisha Thomas Morgan, and State Representative Bettianne C. Hart;
44 and

45 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
46 remarkable organization be appropriately recognized.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
48 commend the Atlanta Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College for
49 their dedicated public service to the State of Georgia.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
51 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Atlanta
52 Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College.