

Senate Resolution 1119

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Miller of the 49th, Williams of the 27th, Fort of the 39th, Henson of the 41st and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Ms. Naomi Tsipora Walker; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of Ms. Naomi Tsipora Walker on December 19, 2015; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Ms. Walker was born on January 16, 1969, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a
5 beloved daughter of Ruth and Ben Walker; and
- 6 WHEREAS, diagnosed with familial dysautonomia, a rare genetic neurological condition,
7 and battling life-threatening medical complications from birth, Ms. Walker never let her
8 disability keep her from achieving her personal and professional goals, keeping an optimistic
9 outlook on life; and
- 10 WHEREAS, deeply influenced by her father, a Holocaust survivor, she grew up in a home
11 that encouraged her independent spirit and that instilled within her the values of social justice
12 and tolerance; and
- 13 WHEREAS, upon graduating from Oglethorpe University and receiving her law degree from
14 Emory University, Ms. Walker landed her dream job as an attorney with the Georgia
15 Advocacy Office, a nonprofit organization charged with protecting the rights of the state's
16 disabled or mentally ill residents, where she became part of a catalyst for change which
17 helped better the lives of countless Georgians statewide; and
- 18 WHEREAS, "She made every day that she had matter, and worked with a sense of urgency
19 because she realized that every day of her clients' lives mattered, and that they had worth and
20 should not be cast aside," said Ruby Moore, executive director of the Georgia Advocacy
21 Office; and

22 WHEREAS, during her 21 year tenure at the Georgia Advocacy Office, she worked to
23 improve access to care, jobs, and assistive technology to improve the quality of life for
24 disabled individuals; she also partnered with Tools for Life, a state program created to help
25 more disabled individuals gain access to assistive technology devices for independent living;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Ms. Walker is survived by her loving husband, Barbaro Ponce, her parents, and
28 sister, Ronit Walker; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Ms. Walker will long be remembered
30 for her love of family, friendship, and public service and will be missed by all who had the
31 great fortune of knowing her.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 join in honoring the life and memory of Ms. Naomi Tsipora Walker and express their deepest
34 and most sincere regret at her passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
36 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Ms.
37 Naomi Tsipora Walker.