

Senate Resolution 611

By: Senators Rhett of the 33rd, Anderson of the 43rd, Jones II of the 22nd and James of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Jeriene Grimes, former Ward Five Board of Education
2 Member for the City of Marietta, for her exemplary work in improving the education and
3 lives of students in Georgia; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a proper quality education for the young people of this state is the single most
5 important objective of the General Assembly; and

6 WHEREAS, Jeriene Grimes worked collaboratively and effectively as a member in the
7 Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) Recognition Program to earn the ranks of
8 "Quality," "Distinguished," and the highest status of "Exemplary School Board" and served
9 as the board's legislative liaison and as a representative for the Marietta Schools Foundation;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Marietta High School (MHS) was recognized among the nation's top public
12 high schools in "America's Most Challenging High Schools" by the *Washington Post* and in
13 *US News & World Report's* Best High Schools, in addition to being recognized as an
14 Advanced Placement (AP) Access and Support School for the number of participants and
15 achievement scores of African American and Hispanic students; the school was also named
16 an AP Humanities School and an AP Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine (STEM)
17 Achievement School; and

18 WHEREAS, the MHS Student Success Center, which provides wraparound services to
19 students by bringing support into the school, is recognized locally, statewide, and across the
20 nation; and

21 WHEREAS, during her service with the Ward Five Board, Jeriene Grimes helped establish
22 the foundation of business partnerships, necessary funding, scope, and development for a
23 Georgia College & Career Academy; and

24 WHEREAS, Jeriene Grimes worked tirelessly to advance the interests of students and to
25 improve student achievement, and she helped increase the four-year graduation rate from
26 66.2 percent to 78.5 percent, and the five-year graduation rate from 70.6 percent to 81.5
27 percent; she embraced and supported charter system flexibility to meet student academic
28 needs and maximize funding; and

29 WHEREAS, the Marietta City Schools Engineering Pipeline (MHS, MMS, Park Street and
30 Hickory Hills Elementary Schools) was recognized by the Technology Association of
31 Georgia, and the school was selected for the International Baccalaureate (IB) "Bridging the
32 Equity Gap IB Diploma Project," which led to significant increased participation of
33 underrepresented students in the full IB diploma program at MHS; and

34 WHEREAS, MHS has many exemplary programs, has earned several notable distinctions,
35 and is involved in a variety of innovative initiatives, including its award winning Air
36 Force-Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AF-ROTC), pre-engineering and pre-architecture
37 career pathway noted for its highly recognized Haiti Container Project; and

38 WHEREAS, Marietta Middle School has been recognized for successful teaching by the
39 Technology Association of Georgia and TAG-Ed as the state winner in the Middle School
40 Division of the fourth annual STEM Awards, earning Georgia Certified STEM status, while
41 Marietta Sixth Grade Academy also earned Georgia Certified STEM status; and

42 WHEREAS, during Jeriene Grimes' tenure with the Board of Education, the Marietta City
43 Schools system has been recognized for its exemplary performance, earning several honors
44 for its innovative pedagogy, including being named as the 2016 Georgia Innovative Charter
45 System of the Year, being highlighted in a Comcast Center for Digital Education White
46 Paper, earning the Golden Radish Award for exceptional work in farm to school nutrition,
47 being included in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution's* 2015 list of the Top 25 Places to Work,
48 and, in 2016, successfully implementing its new orchestra and lacrosse programs; and

49 WHEREAS, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was
50 awarded to the Finance Department of the Board of Education of the City of Marietta; and

51 WHEREAS, the Marietta City Schools system has thrived under Jeriene Grimes' careful
52 stewardship, and it is abundantly fitting and proper for this body to honor the extraordinary
53 accomplishments and academic achievements of this outstanding member of the Ward 5
54 Board of Education.

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
56 recognize and commend former Ward Five Board of Education Member for the City of
57 Marietta Jeriene Grimes and express their most sincere best wishes for her continued success.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
59 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Jeriene Grimes.