

House Resolution 1733

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Smyre of the 135th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, Jones of the 53rd, Thomas of the 56th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Rita Jackson Samuels; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Rita Jackson Samuels has been an advocate for civil and women's rights since
3 her youth when she worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
4 Operation Breadbasket under the administration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and she is
5 currently a member of the National Board of the SCLC; and

6 WHEREAS, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, Rita Jackson Samuels emerged as one
7 of Georgia's most prolific women's right advocates, founding the Georgia Coalition of Black
8 Women, Inc., in 1980, a women's advocacy training and development organization, and the
9 Women in Government Internship Project in 1999, to assist young women interested in
10 government careers; and

11 WHEREAS, Rita established Women Flying High, LLC, a highly successful, female-owned
12 consulting and public engagement enterprise in Atlanta, and the firm has been instrumental
13 in forming strategic alliances and joint venture opportunities that increase women's share of
14 government contracts; and

15 WHEREAS, since 1993, she has been consistently selected by the *Georgia Informer* as one
16 of the 50 Most Influential Women in Georgia; she was selected by the Atlanta Business
17 League as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Women in Atlanta; and she was named as
18 the 2000 Business Woman of the Year by the National Association of Negro Business and
19 Professional Women's Clubs; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1971, Governor Jimmy Carter appointed her to be coordinator of the
21 Governor's Council on Human Relations, making her the first African American woman in
22 Georgia's history to serve on the executive staff of a Georgia governor; and since that time,
23 she has received numerous appointments from Georgia governors, including Governor Joe

24 Frank Harris's appointment to the Georgia State Election Board and reappointments to the
25 King Commission by Governors Zell Miller and Roy Barnes; and

26 WHEREAS, Rita is a former consultant to the Carter White House and to the Community
27 Services Administration, and she currently serves on several boards for such organizations
28 as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Child Development Center and the Joseph E. Lowery Institute
29 for Justice and Civil Rights; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
31 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize and commend Rita Jackson Samuels for her
34 contributions to the State of Georgia and extend best wishes for continued success.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
37 Rita Jackson Samuels.