

## House Resolution 1755

By: Representatives Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Bazemore of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Hugley of the 136<sup>th</sup>, Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Jackson of the 64<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff; 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 Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff on March 18, 2018; and
- 4 WHEREAS, for more than 52 years, Dr. Woodruff selflessly gave of her time, resources, and  
5 tireless energy to personally impact the physical therapy profession in a positive manner; and
- 6 WHEREAS, she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in science at Case Western  
7 Reserve University in 1971 where she was part of the university's first graduate program in  
8 physical therapy; she earned her Ph.D. from Georgia State University in 1984; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodruff made history as the first African American to join the physical  
10 therapy department as an assistant professor of physical therapy in the Division of Physical  
11 Therapy at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine; and
- 12 WHEREAS, she accepted a position in 1978 as an assistant professor of physical therapy at  
13 Georgia State University, where she directed the award-winning programs for minority  
14 student recruitment and retention implemented by Dr. Pat Yarbrough, before being elevated  
15 to associate professor; and
- 16 WHEREAS, in July 1991, Dr. Woodruff was appointed as a full professor and was the  
17 founding chairperson of the Department of Physical Therapy at North Georgia College in  
18 Dahlonega, the University System of Georgia's first doctoral program in physical therapy;  
19 and
- 20 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodruff served as a full professor at North Georgia College and State  
21 University from 1996 to 2005; and

22 WHEREAS, she was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the  
23 APTA Lucy Blair Award, the Kellogg Fellowship for International Leadership, and the  
24 Distinguished Service Award for the Section on Clinical Electrophysiology; and

25 WHEREAS, she was designated as a fellow of the American Academy of Physical Therapy  
26 in 2000 and received a gubernatorial appointment to the Georgia State Board of Physical  
27 Therapy on which she served for more than ten years; and she was also appointed to the  
28 Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodruff's leadership, enthusiasm, and passion for the profession is most  
30 reflected in the organizations of which she was a founding member, including the Foundation  
31 for Physical Therapy, the American Academy of Physical Therapy, the Georgia Student  
32 Physical Therapy Organization, the North American Association of Laser Therapy, the  
33 Physical Therapy Learning Institute, the American Congress on Electroncuromyography, and  
34 the Physical Therapy Learning Institute; and

35 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Dr. Woodruff will long be remembered  
36 for her love of family and friendship and her dedication to the science of physical therapy  
37 and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
39 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff  
40 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
42 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
43 family of Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff.