

Senate Resolution 678

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Jerry "Pops" Barnes as the Distinguished Older Georgian
2 for 2020; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry "Pops" Barnes retired from the United States Army after serving for
4 20 years as a master sergeant E-8; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes, a registered nurse, was one of the first nurses assigned to the
6 Columbus Red Cross shelter relief operations and has operated shelters during the flooding
7 in Harris County in 2003 and during Hurricane Ivan in 2004; he was also one of the first
8 nurses to operate a shelter during Hurricane Katrina; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2002, Mr. Barnes dedicated himself to aiding the community by providing
10 free health education, screening, and case management through his organization, "The Pan
11 Columbus Wellness Project"; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes does free community health nursing on a regular basis in homes,
13 recreation centers, and churches; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes assists in organizing numerous health fairs in the community, writes
15 a weekly health column in the *Columbus Times*, and produces a daily television show called
16 "Focus on Health" to help people make healthy lifestyle choices and informed health care
17 decisions; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes has been an active member of the Coalition of Advocates for
19 Georgia's Elderly and has been an active Meals on Wheels volunteer for over three years; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes was invited by the National Minority Quality Forum, the
21 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc., and the American Medical Association in
22 cooperation with the Congressional Black Caucus of the Congress of the United States to

23 speak in Washington D.C. at the Spring Health Brain Trust and Fifth Annual Health
24 Disparities Leadership Summit; and

25 WHEREAS, in December 2017, Mr. Barnes started the Aging Advocacy Coalition in
26 partnership with the River Valley Area Agency on Aging as a result of his determination to
27 prevent the cutting of the SHIP program at the federal level; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes is an advocate for the disabled military; and

29 WHEREAS, in September 2019, Mr. Barnes was recognized by the Southeastern Association
30 of Area Agencies on Aging as the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year; and

31 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes has fulfilled his campaign promises of opening recreation centers
32 that had been closed since 1997 while providing social services and health care to the
33 community; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes successfully passed a local option sales tax to hire an additional 100
35 law enforcement officers and opened a new precinct in the heart of District 1 in Columbus,
36 Georgia; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry "Pop" Barnes has advocated for the allocation of \$38.1 million dollars
38 to District 1 to maintain the local infrastructure.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 recognize and commend Mr. Jerry "Pop" Barnes as the Distinguished Older Georgian for
41 2020 and as an exemplary councilmember of District 1.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Mr. Jerry "Pop"
44 Barnes.