

House Resolution 1583

By: Representatives Silcox of the 52nd and Wilson of the 80th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Rebecca Chase Williams; 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 Rebecca Chase Williams on March 11, 2020; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Rebecca Chase Williams was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and
5 graduated from Richwoods High School in Peoria, Illinois, before completing her education
6 at the University of Illinois; and
- 7 WHEREAS, after a family move to Atlanta, Georgia, Rebecca worked for a short time with
8 the Southern Regional Education Board, the promotions department of the *Atlanta*
9 *Journal-Constitution*, and as a radio reporter covering the state capitol before beginning her
10 career as a journalist with ABC News; and
- 11 WHEREAS, over the next 20 years, she covered a wide range of stories as a reporter for
12 ABC News, including the trial of Ted Bundy, the Falklands War, numerous political
13 conventions, several presidential campaigns, and every hurricane that hit the Southeast; and
- 14 WHEREAS, after her retirement from ABC, Rebecca began reporting for *The Dunwoody*
15 *Crier*, a publication run by her husband; as a result of her work, Rebecca gained a new
16 interest in public policy and eventually became the second mayor of Brookhaven; and
- 17 WHEREAS, as mayor of Brookhaven, she advocated for park improvements, better traffic
18 flow, and the creation of the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival, which is now the city's
19 premier event; later, she would chair the committee charged with passage of a \$40 million
20 parks bond issue, which brought vast improvements to all city parks; and
- 21 WHEREAS, she was united in love and marriage to her husband, Dick, and was blessed with
22 two remarkable daughters, Catherine and Clare; and

23 WHEREAS, she was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
24 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example she made of her life,
25 she made this world a better place in which to live; and

26 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous woman, Rebecca will long be remembered for
27 her love of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great
28 fortune of knowing her.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Rebecca Chase Williams
31 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
34 family of Rebecca Chase Williams.