

House Resolution 263

By: Representative Jackson of the 128th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the accomplishments of Australia Darden Cochran; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Australia Darden Cochran has made history as the first television news anchor
3 in Washington County, doing so for CNN Headline News Local Edition (1997); and

4 WHEREAS, she has made history as the first Black American to own, publish, and operate
5 a weekly newspaper called *The Spotlight News* (2007-current) and a quarterly magazine
6 called *Spirit of Excellence*; and

7 WHEREAS, Australia's journalism career began at her alma mater, Clark Atlanta University,
8 while interning at the school's radio station WCLK, known as "The Jazz Voice of the City"
9 (1994-1995); and

10 WHEREAS, Australia's first job in television was with WJBF News Channel 6 in Augusta,
11 Georgia, where she worked as an associate producer for the five o'clock news (1996-1997);
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Australia also worked for Real Country Waco 100 WSNT as a marketing and
14 advertising consultant and as DJ for the Afternoon Drive (2000-2007); and

15 WHEREAS, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in mass media arts with a concentration in
16 public relations from Clark Atlanta University and attended Georgia College and State
17 University to pursue her master's degree in public administration; and

18 WHEREAS, she was ordained as an evangelist in 2010 and has since devoted her life to
19 serving youth and senior citizens through her annual Blankets of Love project (2008-
20 current), weekly visits to local nursing homes, Girl Power mentoring, the A-Team, Super
21 Stars, and most recently, as founder of The Washington County Youth & Young Adult
22 Coalition (2021); and

23 WHEREAS, she has honored Washington County fathers for over five years through her
24 annual Father's Day Weekend Tribute alongside Representative Mack Jackson, for whom she
25 is a legislative aide; and

26 WHEREAS, she is the daughter of Robert Lee Darden and the late Janice Jackson of Atlanta,
27 Georgia, the granddaughter of the late Evangelist Annie Ruth Darden Gilbert, and the proud
28 mother of one daughter, Liberty McKenzie Cochran.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body honor Australia Darden Cochran during Black History Month for
31 her contributions to her community.

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
34 Australia Darden Cochran.