

Senate Resolution 333

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th, Davenport of the 44th, Anderson of the 43rd, Parent of the 42nd and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of John F. Sweet; 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 John F. Sweet on May 24, 2020; and
- 4 WHEREAS, John F. Sweet was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1943,a beloved son of Fred
- 5 Sweet and Mary Ellen Funk Sweet; and
- 6 WHEREAS, an attorney, politician, and musician, John served on the boards of numerous
- 7 progressive nonprofit organizations, offered pro bono work to those in need, and championed
- 8 the rights of disenfranchised workers; and
- 9 WHEREAS, a trailblazer in organizational accountability, one of his first acts after being
- 10 elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1977 was to introduce an ordinance to install voting
- 11 machines that would keep a record of council members' votes; and
- 12 WHEREAS, as a longtime workers' compensation lawyer, John pioneered the idea that
- 13 workers' compensation insurance should provide housing and transportation for
- 14 catastrophically injured workers; and

15 WHEREAS, as a teenager, John and his three friends spearheaded protests against racism at
16 Woolsworth's in 1959; while working his way through college, he participated in labor
17 actions and student protests at every institution he attended; and

18 WHEREAS, an ally and friend of Atlanta's first black mayor, Maynard Jackson, John worked
19 side-by-side with black leaders to build a multi-racial coalition; and

20 WHEREAS, for ten years, he served pro bono as an attorney for the Council on Battered
21 Women, serving over 200 survivors of domestic violence; and

22 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Marguerite, and was blessed
23 with two remarkable children, Cassandra and Eli, and four wonderful grandchildren, Dalia,
24 Roman, Dante, and Eloisa; and

25 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, John will long be remembered for his love
26 of family, friendship, and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of
27 knowing him.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
29 join in honoring the life and memory of John F. Sweet and express their deepest and most
30 sincere regret at his passing.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of John
33 F. Sweet.