

Senate Resolution 687

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Jeffree Charles Martin, a.k.a. Jeffrey Charles; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, for decades, Jeffree Charles Martin, a.k.a. Jeffrey Charles, has served as a
4 distinguished radio personality and interdisciplinary champion of African American music
5 and cultural affairs; and

6 WHEREAS, June is African American Music Appreciation Month, created by President
7 Jimmy Carter in 1979, to foster an appreciation for the global uniqueness of Black secular
8 music (jazz, blues, pop, and rhythm & blues) and spiritual music (Gospel); and

9 WHEREAS, Black radio personalities, jewels of betterment, since 1929 have brought forth
10 Scripture-based spirituals that convey God's word in psalms and hymns, expressing faith and
11 hope, and secular radio personalities have brought forth world-relevant music on street life,
12 romance, and social consciousness; and

13 WHEREAS, during the pioneering years of Black radio, Black deejays played the music of
14 soul singers, songwriters, and musicians whose talents were marginalized or excluded by the

15 indifference of mainstream radio and who otherwise had no measure of opportunity to
16 broadly display their distinctive gifts; and

17 WHEREAS, quick-witted, entertaining, informative, and humorous, these magnanimous
18 radio personalities on a daily basis affected African Americans from coast to coast reaching
19 audiences that included the literate and illiterate; the churched and unchurched; the white
20 collared and blue collared; the well-employed, underemployed, and unemployed; the young
21 and old; from all walks of life; and

22 WHEREAS, these preeminent women and men of radio broadcasting, part and parcel of their
23 listening audiences, served as social engineers on the front line of progress, promoting causes
24 such as civil rights, social and personal responsibility, voting registration, economic
25 development, academic achievement, and collective awareness; and

26 WHEREAS, pioneering Black deejays went beyond the call of duty as intelligentsia, as
27 voices for the voiceless; they went beyond the realm of music, bringing forth news and views
28 when Black news and views did not exist elsewhere and offering perspectives that enhanced
29 the dreams, hopes, and well-being of listening audiences throughout Georgia and this
30 country; and

31 WHEREAS, the members of this body and the members of the Georgia Legislative Black
32 Caucus join WCEG Network Incorporated in saluting Black radio personalities in
33 recognition of their global and cultural impact and call upon all Georgians to study, reflect
34 on, and celebrate African American music.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize and commend Jeffree Charles Martin, a.k.a. Jeffrey Charles, for his service and
37 contributions to African American music and cultural affairs.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Jeffree Charles
40 Martin, a.k.a. Jeffrey Charles.