

Senate Resolution 693

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Black radio personalities; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Bill Gay, Carol Blackmon, Deacon Michael Sapp, Douglas W. Candis (Doug
3 Steele), Edgar Buchanan (Edgar Champagne), Frank Ski, Jeffree Charles Martin (Jeffrey
4 Charles), Juandolyn Stokes, Karl Eli Smith, Larry Tinsley, Larry Young, Laurence Ernest
5 Blackmon, Melissa Summers, Michael Gamble, Mike Roberts, Mitch Faulkner, Mr.
6 Christopher Franklin, Mr. Esmond Patterson, Pastor Bobby Clark, Rasheeda Ali (Queen
7 Rasheeda), Bishop Ray Neal, Reggie Gay, Reverend Rhodell Lewis, Reverend Rodney
8 Evans, Rufus Britt (the Mighty Peanut), Ryan Cameron, Twanda Black, Tim Snell
9 (Minnesota Fattz), and Todd Franklin; and

10 WHEREAS, for decades these individuals have served as distinguished radio personalities
11 and interdisciplinary champions of African American music and cultural affairs; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, during the pioneering years of Black radio, Black deejays played the music of
20 soul singers, songwriters, and musicians whose talents were marginalized or excluded by the
21 indifference of mainstream radio and who otherwise had no measure of opportunity to
22 broadly display their distinctive gifts; and

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

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

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

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 recognize and commend these Black radio personalities for their service and contributions
39 to African American music and cultural affairs.

40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
43 press.