

Senate Resolution 698

By: Senator Harbison of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Carol Blackmon; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Carol Blackmon has for decades served as a distinguished radio personality and
3 interdisciplinary champion of African American music and cultural affairs in the Atlanta
4 area; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Since 1979, Black non-secular radio personalities have brought forth
9 Scripture-based spirituals that convey God's word in psalms and hymns expressing faith and
10 hope while secular radio personalities have introduced relevant music on street life, romance,
11 and social consciousness; and

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, pioneering Black deejays went beyond the call of duty as intelligentsia voices
26 for the voiceless; beyond the realm of music, they brought forth news and views when Black
27 news and views didn't exist elsewhere, offering perspectives that enhanced the dreams,
28 hopes, and well-being of listening audiences throughout Georgia and the country.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize and commend Carol Blackmon and other Black radio personalities for their global
31 and cultural impact, and call upon all Georgians to study, reflect on, and celebrate African
32 American music.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
34 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Carol Blackmon.